



JUNE 1986

ISSUE NO. 12

In lieu of a con report, the following filk is offered in an attempt to sum up a week-end spent at MediaWest...

THE BALLAD OF MEDIAWEST*CON

by Cheree Cargill

Oh, Lord, won't you get me to MediaWest#Con?
My friends are in Lansing, having lots of fun.
With buttons and photos and zines by the ton.
Oh, Lord, won't you get me to MediaWest*Con?

Oh, Lord, won't you buy me a crate full of zines?
Four dozen buttons to wear on my jeans?
An armload of photos -- it's not what it seems,
But, oh, Lord, won't you buy me a crate full of zines?

Oh, Lord, won't you buy me a Liltz for my wall?
A Wagner or Dunster to hang in my hall?
That portrait of Harrison -- I think I want 'em all!
Oh, Lord, won't you buy me a Liltz for my wall?

Oh, Lord, won't you win me a Fan Q Award?
Worked hard on my fanzine, oh, so very hard.
I'm not a great artist and I'm not a bard,
But, oh, Lord, how I want just one Fan Q Award!

Oh, Lord, let me party each night 'til I drop!
And fill up on junk food, 'til I want to pop!
I'm having a great time -- I don't want to stop!
Oh, Lord, let me party each night 'til I drop!

Oh, Lord, won't you get me next year to the Con?
The weekend just flew past; where has it gone?
But it's on to the airport; farewell to Hilton.
Oh, Lord, won't you get me next year to the Con?

(to the tune of "Mercedes Benz" by Janis Joplin)

A few of the faces seen this year at MediaWest*Con...



Leah Rosenthal, Ann Wortham and Liz Sharpe

Sandi Jones and Jeannie Webster



(right) John and
Jeanine Hennig in
costume as Robin
and Marion



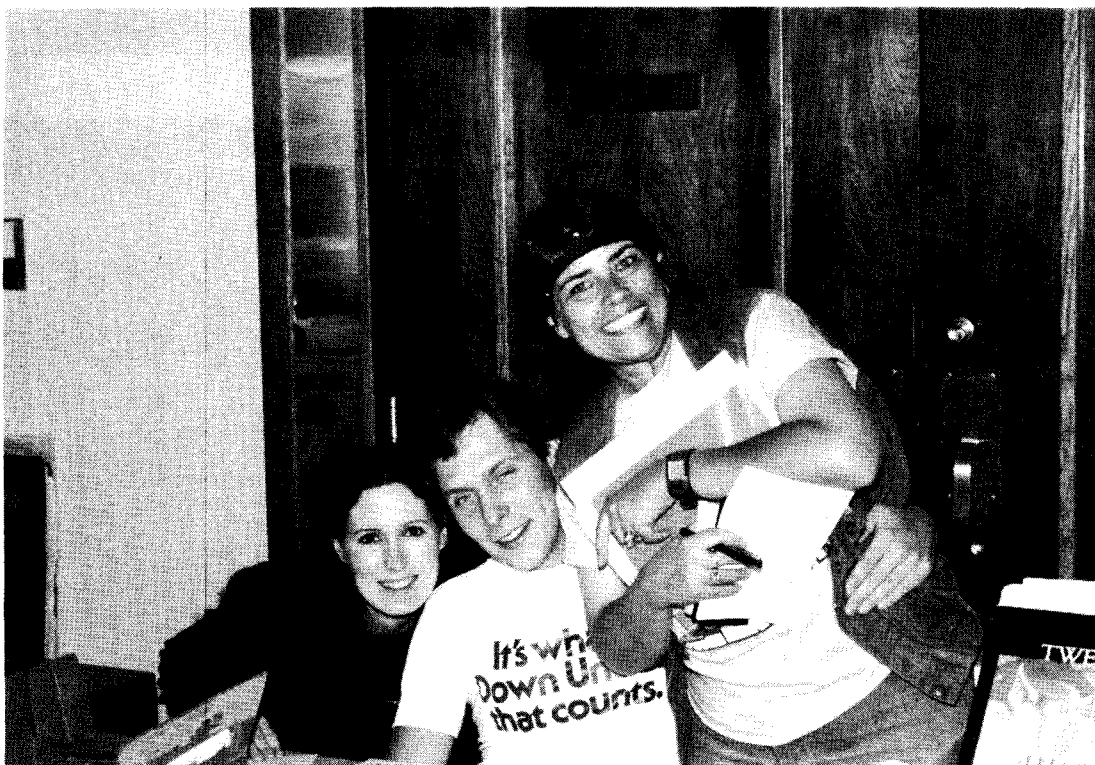
(below) Sally Smith
and Sandi Jones
(not Alias Smith
and Jones)





Jim Markle

Melea Fisher, Mark Fisher and Sandy Williams



Consumer Corner

Equal space will be
offered for replies.

From:

P. J. LaVasseur
1650 Wabash
Denver, CO 80220

About two years ago I put a deposit down on ERRANTRY 2 for \$5.00. I never heard anything back. I then sat down and wrote Regina Gottesman inquiring as to whether she even received the check. I heard nothing. I sat down and wrote again. All I wanted was a simple yes or no so I could make a stop payment and send another check out. To this day I still have not received the courtesy of a reply.



And Along Came Friday

BIT OF A flappola in the secret Marin world of Lucasville. Word's out that Sid Ganis, senior vice-pres. and sparkplug of the George Lucas empire, is quitting to join Paramount to take charge of worldwide distribution. Further news: About 15 heads will be lopped in an economy move, and the No. 1 Lucasville joke — not to George — goes "How does George Lucas screw in a light bulb?" Answer: "He doesn't. He just holds it up and the world revolves around HIM"

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#3-11 available for \$2.00 each. SE#1 2 are sold
out.

Deadline for #13 -- August 1, 1986

Editor's Desk

A fund has been set up for the benefit of the children of the Challenger astronauts. If you would like to contribute, the address is:

Space Shuttle Children's Fund
c/o American Security Bank
P. O. Box 0150
Washington, D.C. 20055

The largest contributor to the Space Shuttle Children's Fund (as of this printing, totalling over \$600,000) is Steven Spielberg, who personally contributed \$50,000 to the cause. A hearty hand for Steven!

And another round of appaluse to Judith Low for two more new mastheads for the "Certain Point of View" and Review sections! Hopefully, her work will grace SE for a long time to come!

On to other matters, as of this issue, I am being forced to raise prices again. The subscription rate has stayed the same for about two years now, but, unfortunately, printing and postage costs have not. Printing costs have gone up around \$200 per issue since 1984 and postage is running over a \$1.00 a copy now. Multiply that by 75 or 80 and it starts to add up! Since I can only afford to publish SE if it pays for itself, I am forced to raise the price by 50¢ an issue. Therefore, beginning this issue, subscription rates will be \$4.00 per issue, \$12.00 for 3 issues, or \$16.00 for a year (4 issues). Hopefully this will allow SE to run for a long time to come.

A note from Pat Nussman: Eluki bes Shahar has just sold a Regency romance to St. Martin's Press. It will be issued in hardback in 1987 under the pen name of Rosemary Edgehill. The title isn't set in stone yet, but Eluki's working title is: TWO OF A KIND. Congratulations, Eluki!

As you may have noticed, there are no articles or reviews this issue. That's because nobody sent any in! Come on, folks! Now that MediaWest is over and you are all stocked up with new zines and new ideas, let's see those articles start rolling in!

ART CREDITS:

Judith Low -- mastheads
Ronda Henderson -- 14, 18, 23, 24
Carol Peters -- 20, 39, 42
Cheree Cargill -- 43

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This is Carol Peters' speeder bike. She won it in a contest that K-Mart and Lucasfilm ran in 1985. They were made only for the contest and aren't for sale.

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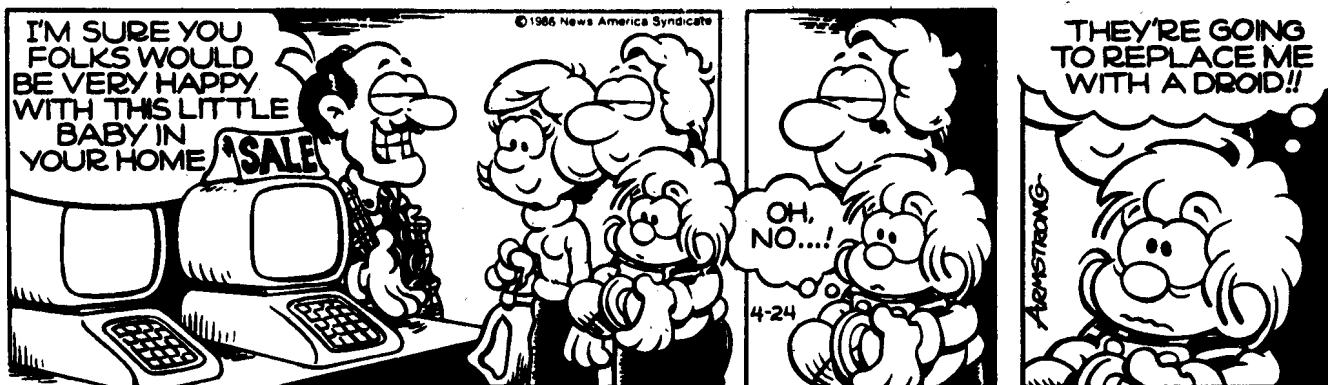
BERRY'S WORLD By Jim Berry



© 1986 by NEA, Inc. *Jim Berry*

"I expected Halley's to be much more George Lucasy!"

MARVIN



FAN WARS

Amidst reshuffling at Lucasfilm comes reports that the Official "Star Wars"/Lucasfilm Fan Club is being disbanded.

Not true, alleged Lucasfilm senior vp Sidney Ganis.

He admitted that fan-club staffers have been among those people laid off by Lucasfilm. But, he stressed, "someone" will continue the club (biggest in the world, with more than 100,000 members).

Will that "someone" work in-house (per the exiting staffers)? "I don't know."

LOS ANGELES TIMES/CALENDAR

DATE: 03/03/84 BY: [illegible]

NO NEWS IS MAYBE NO NEWS

A friend of Outtakes reports seeing sketches of preliminary special effects work for the next "Star Wars" film. That would be the first episode of the nine-part series, as conceived by George Lucas. (Recall that the initial trilogy comprised parts four through six.)

Lucas has long said that the first trilogy would set up the second, which in turn sets up the third, etc. Which got us to wondering . . . what were Darth Vader and Obi-Wan Kenobi like when they were young? When did they encounter Yoda? How did they discover the Force?

NANCY GRAMAN



So we put in a phone call to Marin County's Skywalker Ranch, home to Lucasfilm. The publicist was skeptical: "I haven't heard anything about this. I'll have to do some checking."

Two days later she called with a two-word reply: "No comment." Then she laughed.

—From Pat H. Broeske

The changes have to do with "us concentrating on film production and streamlining the business."

He added: "But the fan club exists and will continue to exist—at least in the foreseeable future. Through thick and thin, we will remain loyal in our way to our fans."

Speaking of departures, Ganis also is exiting. On Tuesday, he begins work at Paramount as head of worldwide marketing. George Lucas is said to be staying aboard Lucasfilm.

—From Pat H. Broeske

SUPER FAN

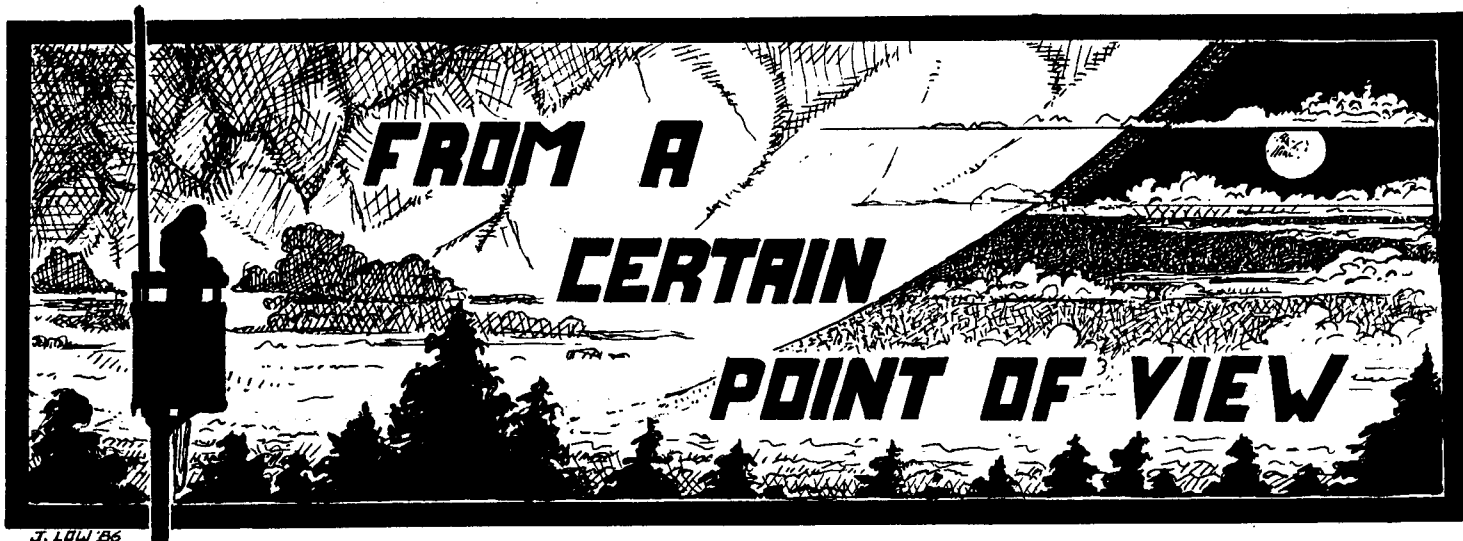
"Thank you for nominating 'Witness' as one of the best pictures of 1985."

The Hollywood Reporter ad began like another piece of studio Oscar puffery. But the author was actually self-described "Glendale Moviegoer" Keith B. Fahey.

Fahey took out the \$535 ad "because I knew I would forever regret it if I failed to act." But he owned up to a bit of self-aggrandizing as well: A word processor by profession (who did some temporary work last year at Paramount, "Witness's" studio), he's also a closet fiction writer, hoping an agent might take notice.

No such luck yet. But "Witness" producer Ed Feldman and co-writer William Kelley both called Fahey to say thanks.

—From Steven Smith



J. LOW '86

Maggie Nowakowska
2330 Federal Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102

April 1, 1986

The Liz Sharpe article was a nice piece to chew on. One ingredient in the pie seems to be missing, tho: ol' Palpatine himself. I feel that his uncontrolled, unoverseen use of the Force is a factor that can't be ignored in the fate of the Jedi and the Republic. Did those malcontents Liz identified grab a hold of this non-Jedi power-user, or did Palpatine, in his ambition, spot their unhappiness and use it for his own gain? It seems to me that in most of the discussions of SW politics, the Jedi-like powers of the Emperor are ignored. Perhaps this is because, in using Terran models, we fall short of any local examples of someone with that sort of paranormal power ending up in charge of any state, let alone a major power in the world. Even our more influential rulers/conquerors/madmen had only the magic of charisma to harness their followers. Palpatine has manipulation of the sort we saw demonstrated on Tatooine when Kenobi advises the stormtrooper of his party's unimportance; Palpatine has persuasion abilities a tad bit more impressive than thumb screws and bloody pain (his little blue zap game with Luke could be described as a paranormal version of electric wires run up choice parts of a person's body.); Palpatine is a man beyond our experience, just as the Jedi are beyond our experience. Still, if even because of that ignorance we really may not be able to speculate solid scenarios, I think we ought to always mention that wild card, that aspect we can't measure, when making political statements. Just as it is sometimes difficult to understand the power of religion in our western society only a few hundred years ago, or the thorough way capitalistic/communistic assumptions affect the everyday life of people today, it is probably impossible to really understand how the people of the SW universe view the options of their life. The Jedi were real for thousands of years; the Emperor with his Jedi-like powers is real for the Imperial peoples.

Lin Ward asked about the possibility of SW's clones being totally war-oriented because of upbringing. I suspect that is a probability, and suggest CJ Cherryh's Downbelow Station Universe books (DOWNBELOW STATION; 40,000 ON GEHENNA; MERCHANTER'S LUCK) for a fascinating look at what she called "azi clones" and how their tapes, describing proper behavior, beliefs, skills, become their fami-

lies, their honor, their lives, their limitations.

Sally Smith: Yep, it sure does seem that Ford is branching out with his appearance on "The Preservation Tango" on Jimmy Buffet's LAST MANGO IN PARIS album! We also noticed that the title song seems to be about Indiana Jones himself, albeit in Indy's retirement years (just as "The Preservation Tango" seems to describe perfectly a situation that Indy would love to get involved in).

Mary Keever: We were also pleasantly surprised by the second Ewoks movie. Not having planned to watch it, let alone tape it, we saw the show only because there was nothing else to watch while we sat around playing cribbage one Sunday night. If I had a 5-year-old daughter, I would let her watch it as many times as she liked. Finally, a non-hysterical little girl heroine!

Lin Ward: Our friend Jim Hill has had a Washington State license plate with OBI WAN on it since 1979; his car, a Sirocco with black trim below the trunk edge, also has the words, THE FORCE WILL BE WITH YOU...ALWAYS on either side of the plate in white letters. Jim's had a lot of people stop him and ask to take a picture of the car--especially when he's been in his Kenobi costume. There is also a local Mercedes Benz (or is it a BMW?) with JEDI 1; we're looking for 2!

Chris Callahan: I don't hold out much hope for honestly representative SF book covers, not so long as demographics point to a large young male majority audience for SF (and so long as so many of the artists are male, although Rowenna always make my teeth gnash with her ridiculous females). Jessica Salmonson, a local pro writer and fairly militant, tells a story about one of her book covers when she specifically indicated no ratty females on the cover, the editor promised, then had to scramble for an excuse when the publisher insisted on using art the artist provided, no matter that it was the standard female in metal G-string in a come-hither pose.

I have to admit that sometimes I feel as isolated in my liking for SF in media fandom as I did staring at all those magazines with their covers that insinuated MEN-ONLY in the 50's. In Trek fandom, you'd be laughed out of the letterzine (or worse, scorned) for putting the SF, the trek to the stars aspect of the program, ahead of the characterization; ghodforbid you should suggest that the Holy Trio weren't the end-all and be-all of the series. I truly feel that the presentation of the mechanicals in SW is as important as many of the character aspects fandom discusses endlessly. The current exploration of droid status is one reflection of that importance; also of note is the feeling

of comfort with high-tech that SW assumes. I remember reading an article in, I think MOTHER JONES, back in '77, wherein an author normally only slightly paranoid about high tech/robots found himself feeling as comfortable with C3PO and R2D2 as he did with his telephone; the author then reflected that Lucas was one of the first people, after years and years of advanced tech machinery being presented as either gods or The Enemy, to assume that we will be as comfortable with our future tools as we are with our current tools. That Lucas was the first to recognize that human use of its tools in the future will be just as casual and careless and common as today. That the future is already here.

A number of people have spoken to the question of how Luke was able to perform Forcefully that which had not been taught. I'd like to agree with those who suggest that extrapolation is not so extraordinary. Luke is ignorant in ANH, but he is not stupid; he's an excellent pilot, and capable of thinking on his feet. He's seen Kenobi manipulate stormtroopers; a lightsaber in the snow is less complicated a challenge. And, once with the Alliance where talk would be more free than on a farm where the adults are doing their best to keep a kid innocent of such matters, I imagine Luke heard plenty of stories of what Jedi could do. Learning to use one's Forceful powers may well be like learning to really manipulate a computer (as opposed to merely pushing buttons): given the basic knowledge that A, B and C are possible, the subtleties of A, B and C are only truly learned and absorbed on your own through experimentation, practice, extrapolation and ever more practice.

Mickey Malkin: Your comments on the BNF phenomena are appropriate. I think trouble arises when BNF is taken as a complimentary status rather than simply a descriptive one. Anyone who is mentioned a lot in fannish circles is a Big Name Fan, no matter whether those mentions are in the realm of "isn't s/he a great writer/artist/person?", or, more like "Have you heard about the crazy letter/antic so-and-so came up with this time?"

Also, a BNF can exist solely in the minds and psychic experience of those who talk about her; the real person may be totally ignorant of such status. For example, my name is known to a lot of fans because a lot of fans have read my stories, but I don't go to that many cons, and am isolated socially on the Northwest Coast. Yet I have been amazed at reports of things I have said to, and done with, people I've never met, not even in letterzines. Now I can put my feet in my mouth as quickly as anyone, can be as pig-headed as any fan; I really don't need a "BNF Maggie Nowakowska" out there somewhere complicating matters for me. A corollary to this phenomenon is the fan who thinks that someone's BNF status means she has the right to access that BNF anytime she wants to, and that that BNF has an obligation to "perform" for those who have decided they are fans of the BNF. Somewhere along the way the pleasantries of "BNF's" recognizing (for example) the way their notoriety can help mitigate the awkwardness of neos has turned into an obligation of the BNF to welcome all to her circle of friends or to risk damnation if she doesn't. This is not to say that there are not snippy people who discover their BNF status and run with it as far as they can (and then some!); but I have seen too many people castigated for simply not meeting another fan's expectations of them.

And perhaps the people who give the term its worst connotations are those who desperately want

to be BNFs, always coming across as obnoxious attention-getters, never understanding that the acquisition of such a term depends not on them, but on fandom at large. Self-aggrandizement is seldom attractive.

In a related area, I agree with Tim Blaes' distrust of the phrase "personal attack." Criticism, even the sharp kind, is not necessarily insult. Thinking another person's ideas are stupid may be unmannerly to state outloud, but such is not an attack. It is simply an opinion. Claiming that a person knowingly misrepresents herself or others' speech/behavior; using ad hominum reasoning to undermine another's arguments; calling names, and such, fit much more easily under the PA heading. By my lights, when the only wealth a person truly owns is his or her good name, claiming PA is similar to suing for libel; it is a tactic that should be considered long and hard before use. Sometimes it seems that fandom (all of them) is filled with people with so little sense of self-worth and confidence that just claiming to prefer a different character/author/work of art is tantamount to insulting the person addressed.

Tim also brought up the difference between Ford's scripted dialogue in TESB's carbon freezing scene and the ad libbed line. I am one who really wishes Ford had read his proper dialogue. Although I also like the "I know" phrase (for reasons I have gone into a number of times in other letterzines), I believe the "You remember that..." phrase is not only in perfect characterization for Han, but also rings of hope for Leia and for the viewer. I do like the image of Han bravely going to probable death, but I also love the image of Han Solo determined to conquer no matter the obstacle he must face. It's a saucy phrase, and from a scripting point of view, I think it fits much better with what Lucas wanted to do in his trilogy. It's also a rowdy phrase, full of sensual promise, which I also have no complaints about!

I vote with the people who think Vader/Anakin did not know Leia was the sister Luke referred to. Luke's mind, to me, seems to be mostly on the family aspect of the relationship; I can easily believe that, sensing Leia's danger on Endor, Luke thought in terms of losing his newly found sister, rather than losing Leia. It's also possible that thought communication is not so specific unless special effort is made. When I think of my brother, I tend to think "he who is related to me, who shared my childhood experiences, etc." rather than think "David, my brother who is...etc." And once Vader glommed onto the notion of another child, I think Luke would strive to shield the reality of identity. Afterwards, Anakin would remember the sister reference in terms of "his child". Leia's identity is important to us because we already know who she is; at this late stage of the game, Anakin's attention appears to be on the future, on his image with posterity.

As for how Vader couldn't have known about Leia, I like the scene in Ellen Randolph's story, "Parvenue for a Princess" (GUARDIAN 7), where Obi-Wan deliberately places blocks in the unborn Leia's brain that will keep her sheltered from discovery.

Regarding the debate over just what were Yoda and Obi-Wan up to with their handling of Luke, it seems to me that trying to discover the "one way" Kenobi and Yoda thought discounts their flexibility. Not that dissecting what happened isn't fun, it is; but I suspect that they knew there was no one good way to handle the mess; that these Jedi had lots of

possible behaviors worked out for the difficult situation they found themselves and the galaxy in; that they changed and adapted and sometimes even reversed their ideas as the situation developed. I further suspect that the question of just when Luke should be told about Vader was an ongoing topic of discussion between them. Decision making, particularly on the levels of people management, battle and education, are always fluid; to come up with one set idea and stick with it is a recipe for disaster.

This brings up Pat Easley's question about Ben's evasive expression when he tells Luke the story in ANH. I think that image was one of the first things that really stayed with me regarding Kenobi's personality and his place in the saga, way back in '77 when I first saw SW. Obi-Wan's behavior contradicted the cliches that usually governed such disclosures; one of our first questions in the local group was, What's really going on here? What is he not telling the boy? Perhaps that's why I never bought the Kenobi-as-saint line, nor was terribly surprised when the simple story of a murdered father turned complicated. We've been able to do a trick on our VCR, freezing frame during that scene so that Luke's face is fading in as Kenobi's fades out, both on the screen at once, with exactly the same thoughtful, questioning look, one person looking to the future with the question, "Why?", the other looking to the past with the same "Why?".

Now, about the "lie" of Kenobi's. I have to admit I don't understand all the vitriol over Kenobi's version of what happened. Why all the obsession with lying as an utter damnation of Kenobi's character, as a measure of total untrustworthiness. Are we all so innocent of lies? Do we really think that a lie so marks a person? That self-righteousness that seems, to me, to permeate this discussion is incredible. People lie all the time and with far less reason; it sometimes seems to me that what many fans are really furious with Kenobi for is his pointing out a painful reality--that most of the "truths" we hold most dear are simply reflections of our point of view.

I am not arguing with assessments of Kenobi's wisdom/morality/judgment in handling the mess he made of training Anakin Skywalker. I am simply asking why an act that can easily be judged kind considering the sort of man Luke's father had turned into, that is possibly one of the most constantly replicated "sins" by most every human all through his/her life, should be used as a bludgeon against Kenobi? Or is fandom full of people who still haven't come to terms with the notion that mom and dad sometimes didn't tell them all the truth?

Yes, that's a bit catty. But I am honestly puzzled.

As for few people's favorite uncle, Marlene Karkoska asks why Owen Lars takes the risk of Luke's upbringing? If we go by the novelization, where Owen is Obi-Wan's brother, any number of reasons can be argued: family connections, simple humanitarian reasons, Kenobi stubbornness; I like to salt that combination liberally with a desire to succeed where his brother failed. (On the same subject, I like Ellen Randolph's development in A NEW CHALLENGE that has Owen taking Beru's last name, Lars.) I also think Sandi Jones' suggestion that Lars was so difficult about Luke's application to the Academy because Owen was trying to protect Luke is a good one. As for why the Skywalker name was kept, I have no imaginative ideas. I suspect that it merely reflects the Terran culture of the filmmakers

who, like so many other people, male and female, never stop to think about the assumption that a son must carry his father's name. When so many women think nothing of taking on another family's name, I can't condemn Lucas for not questioning the convention. Names are entirely too potent magic; secondary characters can change them, so can daughters, but heaven forbid the hero should--

I just had a thought--the only time we hear Luke's full name is when he bursts in on Leia in detention. It just may be possible that Luke didn't use his name socially on Tatooine out of respect for his foster parents, but that he did know it for use when he began his own life. That coming conflict between names could be another reason why Owen keeps putting off Luke's application to the Academy--he'd have to explain why he wanted Luke to use a name other than Skywalker in a situation that should belong to Luke and Luke's future, not to his past on Tatooine.

Sandi Jones: I have to disagree with the criticism implied by saying that Lucas simply wanted to "forget about characterization" in the SW saga. Part of what makes SW so appealing is its ability to adapt to thousands and thousands of individual personalities and world-views. If the movies had been as deeply characterized as some fans want, their appeal would have been limited to those people who agreed with that particular interpretation of the characters. As the movies are now, they allow an incredible amount of diversity in interpretation. SW is a modern-age fairy tale, a story that is internalized as fairy tales are. The incredible diversity, the often contrariness, of fan-lit Han Solos, each true to the author's vision of SW, is a measure of how Lucas succeeded in his goal. My Han is true for me; yours is true for you. This can be only if Han's character is originally presented as broadly as possible. A good example of problems that could arise is the demand for a wedding at the end of JEDI; I think my image of SW Han would have been totally destroyed if that convention had been tagged to the man. As it stands, those who want a wedding can imagine one; I can picture, instead, a relationship for Han and Leia that is less traditional, one that answers the needs I have.

Isn't Luke's immaturity in ANH representative of everyone's immaturity when young? I remember being hurt by all the smart remarks fans made about Luke's behavior in ANH because I looked at that Luke and saw myself when I was Luke's age; I didn't like being laughed at when I was twenty and I didn't like discovering that people who were old enough to have discovered compassion still could be unmerciful. Sure, he'd probably cringe a bit to see himself then; I do when I think of my own awkwardness. But Luke did outgrow his immaturity; I can't see him being bothered by it anymore than I believe today that there is dishonor in immaturity at that age. To continue what must be my "puzzlement" LoC, I was honestly surprised that fans, who are often self-possessed awkward-ites in the world, didn't embrace Luke and his growing confidence as one of their own.

To close, I'll address Jeanine Hennig's question about creative "ownership" of characters. (Jenni, this is a subject that I feel quite strongly about and have strong words to say those feelings with. Please accept that this tirade is not directed at you. Blessed be!)

I come down hard on the side of ultimate creator rights in how his/her creations are presented. Although I feel that the range of interpretation of

characters is wide enough to embrace a fandom determined to create its own fiction, I do think that a creator has the right to say what a character would not do or be. It is not enough, for me, to say, well, once someone changes the character's behavior that new character is not my character; in etymology, there is a saying, bad drives out the good, to indicate how one meaning of a word can overwhelm an established meaning, narrowing, sometimes distorting the original word's meaning. The word "mistress" is a common example. It started out meaning a married woman, a woman in charge (like a master), and has come to mean an unmarried female lover supported by a male. A writer's creations are her legacy. I believe she has the right to determine what that legacy, however small, however limited in awareness, will be.

Jenni, you are correct when you quote all the various pictures of Han drawn by fans. All are legitimate because Lucas has sketched a broad canvas, designed to have the colors filled in by his audience. But I believe he has the right to say what Han isn't in an effort to hold true to his vision, to his legacy. For example: I have a female character who I have seen described in ways that vary from a nut case to an admirable heroine (I don't think she's a nut case, but then I also have my doubt about her admirable status!). I don't mind these various representations, but if someone started presenting her as a traditional terran female, if someone started trying to present her as 180 out from what she is, I would object loudly. Why? Because (1) she is my creation, brought to life by me and as a certain character, AND is my legacy, a representative of my talent. I have the right to say what she is not. (2) Because there are some aspects of a character that define that character in such a way that to change it is to change the character irrevocably, and if that changed character comes to be accepted as the originally created character, then the original creation has been damaged. And (3) because the artist has a duty to every other dreamer in human history to fight the notion that anything and everything is for sale.

There is a line between interpretation and distortion. It is not rigid; it may not even stay in the same place. But so long as the creator is alive, I believe she should fight for the integrity of her/his creation. If I create a character who believes in one, personal, omnipotent god and someone changes that character into an atheist, and if the audience comes to accept the second presentation as real, I have lost one of my children. Again, this is not to damn interpretation. This is to ask that a creator's intention, the spirit of the piece, be respected; that people honor the labor, love, sweat, and hope for communication that go into the creation of a story, a piece of art, of music; and that people recognize that art is part of the human creator's soul, part of her perception of truth, however mundane, homey or innocent.

Some people argue that they have paid the artist by buying the book, attending the movie, play, whatever, and that therefore they can do what they want with their impressions. I would argue that what they have done is not buy the offered art, but rather have paid rent for its presentation/performance. I firmly believe that somethings cannot be sold, that when people insist that they can do anything at all they want with a character, they are implying that the creator is willing to prostitute her art. I have written for hire, for advertising; I know what

kind of contract I made then. It is not the same as the contract I enter when I write a story.

It can also be said that what is of the spirit cannot be owned. I would agree, but I would also add that neither should it be misrepresented, and that the "translator" of a particular slice of that spirit is the appropriate guardian of the art. Her judgement should be accepted.

Sigh. This had better be all, folks. I'm over my self-imposed limit of six pages for sure (but I double spaced this time, I did, instead of cheating at space and a half; does that count?! Have a good time at MediaWest everyone, and at Conzineence; wish I were with you!

Cut Scenes

Carolyn Cooper
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Houston, TX 77266

March 30, 1986

First, I'd like to publically say "thank you" to Dani Lane for all her hard work and support on FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #2. Considering how many zine editors keep her busy, she should get a fandom medal of honor! ((Ed: I second the motion! Last year at MediaWest, a group of us zine eds voted her our own private Fan Q for illoing over and above the call of duty!))

Regarding Maureen Garrett and the NASFiC panel. Unfortunately, the panel was neither video or audio taped; the facilities weren't available and many SF convention panelists will no longer allow themselves to be taped. Ms. Garrett did NOT say STAR WARS was in pre-production. As a matter of fact, Ms. Garrett insisted it would be at least 3 years before another SW trilogy went into pre-production. However, various fans discussed, on other panels, the myriad of reports and indicators that Lucasfilm is indeed gearing up for another SW trilogy and the probability of it being the first three episodes.

One last thing, regarding Luke's learning to "call" his lightsaber into his hand without Ben's training him--not so. This was one of the bits in the original release of EMPIRE later cut for time purposes. When Luke is hanging in the wampah cave, Ben's voice tells him to stop straining to reach it and to relax and envision it in his hand. The whole process took a minute or two. Other scenes cut from the original release of the films and later cut from re-release and video:

In STAR WARS:

(1) Han and Chewie chased by stormtroopers. The lead stormtrooper shouts into the comlink, "Close the blast doors! Close the blast doors!" The doors start closing but Chewie, then Han slip through cutting off the stormtroopers, now shouting, "Open the blast doors! Open the blast doors!" (Now the last bit is all you see.) ((Ed again: In the original version of SW that we saw in the theater here in Dallas, the "close" line was cut and we didn't realize anything was missing. Then years later we came into the possession of an early black market copy and the line was there! Now, in our commercial copy, the line is missing again!))

(2) The first two attempts by Luke Skywalker to hook his line for the swing with Leia.

In EMPIRE:

(1) See above.

(2) The probe droid originally lands and buries itself in the snow for the night.

(3) Luke thrashes in the water in the medic scene, mumbling "Dagobah. Yoda" before the bacta solution is put in and Han and Leia discuss not knowing what it means.

(4) Luke goes through more climbing, tumbling and training before entering the tree scene.

I know there are a few more, but I'd have to check my notes. However, I agree that once he learned all the fundamentals from Yoda, he was capable of continuing his training on his own.

Gotta fly. The time warp's got me.

Coming Events

Linda Kerry
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March 27, 1986

Greetings, all!

I had wondered what the response would be from fans re the CHALLENGER disaster. There are a lot of caring people out there, and it is encouraging to see! You folks might be interested to know that C. J. Cherryh and Janet Morris are trying to get together \$36,000 to take out an ad in the NEW YORK TIMES supporting the space program. While I don't think that an ad (especially one that expensive--I think that the money would be better spent helping the victims' families and setting up trust funds, etc.) is going to do much in affecting the attitudes of John Q. Public about the space program, I do think that it is a nice show of solidarity among book publishers, writers and others within the sf community. Any money raised over and above the amount needed for the ad will be donated to funds set up for the surviving children of the shuttle's crew. Those wishing to donate should send their money to: C. J. Cherryh, 1901 Bella Vista, Edmond, OK 73034.

1986 hasn't started off to be a very good year in sf circles, has it? In this first quarter, we have lost not only the shuttle crew, but also Frank Herbert and editor Judy-Lynn Del Rey. (Incidentally, she bought the novel STAR WARS a year before the film came out...) They will all be missed. ((Ed: Author L. Ron Hubbard also passed away recently.))

I attended Boskone in February--Boskone is the huge annual convention put on by the New England Science Fiction Association. The con is mostly mainstream sf programming--they do have some movies, though not as many and not of the quality I would like to see most. (I did finally get to see SILENT RUNNING, though.) I was pleased to see that despite

NESFA's general disdain of media fandom, the single largest audience of any panel or program was gathered to watch the Lucasfilm presentation. After technical difficulties at Saturday's presentation (the slide projector operator managed to drop an entire tray of slides, and the film projector for the LABYRINTH teaser had no sound--Maureen Garrett was...well, steamed is putting it very mildly!), the presentation was finally given in its complete form on Sunday afternoon.

The first part of the presentation was about Lucasfilm, Ltd.--slides of artwork, kid's letters to Lucas, funny t-shirts, pictures of Skywalker Ranch, etc. The second part of the slide show dealt with the new projects GL is working on for the summer: HOWARD THE DUCK (oh, please!) and the Henson film, LABYRINTH, with David Bowie. *sigh* Slim pickings, indeed. Then the program was turned over to a question and answer period. Now, perhaps Maureen was having a bad day, was upset by the previous afternoon's fiasco or was suffering any number of human ailments, but she gave off the impression that she doesn't even like fans, and was bored to tears with SW questions. She didn't ignore them per se, just played around then, hedging and dodging. Toying with us! I'll tell you, I was ready to deck her, or walk out in disgust before she was done. And she is supposed to be the fan liaison? I noticed in #11 that Linda Deneroff reported that GL had laid off the entire SW fan club division, and I too wonder what this means for the fans. If courteous quiet-spoken fen are made to feel as though they had just crawled out from under a rock by the very person who is supposed to represent LFL to them, one wonders at the lack of respect given us as people by the fellow that we, as fans, made successful.

Sorry, didn't mean to rant! I was just upset by the whole deal! The rest of the programming was wonderful, though, got to meet some really nice people and not just a few authors! On to the letters...

Mary Keever: The "Slow Boat to Bespin" flap happened shortly after I discovered SW fandom. Apparently, LFL took offense at the story and threatened to shut down fandom. There was a lot of name-calling and bally hoo about the now famous LFL guidelines, but as you can see, fandom is alive and thriving!

Maggie Nowakowska: The young fellow on the Hardy Boys show was Parker Stevenson--a fine actor (and not too hard on the eyes, either!).

Chris Callahan: As a Waldenbooks manager, I try to get every sf book that comes out for my store (who says that rank doesn't have its privileges?), so I see about everything in print--and I tend to agree with you--the covers seem to be sliding back into the Frazetta/Boris mode. Unfortunately, these covers hide some really great books! Case in point: Melisa Michaels' SKYRIDER series (SKIRMISH, FIRST BATTLE and LAST WAR). The first two had rather regrettable covers--but don't let them fool you! This is really good stuff! I highly recommend this series--and the best thing is I have just found out that Melisa has sold books 4 and 5 in the series!

Does anyone know anything about a zine called ECHO SEVEN? I sent the editor my check late last summer and it's been cashed and I still haven't gotten my zine! Has anyone else had this problem? Is the zine actually available somewhere? Help!

Well, I haven't commented on everything I wanted, but I don't want to take up more than my share of space, so--until #12, fly casual!

Carole Regine
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April 7, 1986

Cheree: Putting that poem, "High Flight" on SE's cover was a beautiful tribute to the crew of the CHALLENGER, and thanks for reprinting those articles from THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD. Also, I liked the SOUTHERN ENCLAVE masthead by Judy Low and the piece she did for "Mos Eisley Marketplace." Classy. ((Ed: This issue also sees new mastheads for the "Reviewing the Fleet" section and for the LoC section itself! A hearty cheer for Judy!))

Matthew Whitney: Glad to know I'm not all alone in the Universe. I don't recall seeing Ian McDiarmid in other films (I missed DRAGONSLAYER), but his performance in ROTJ made a big and very favorable impression on me. I loved his day-to-night sudden changes of facial expressions--turning that phoney-benevolent smile into a look of pure contempt for Luke and his "pitiful little band" of rebels. McDiarmid's Palpatine was a vast improvement over that lackluster holo image that Vader knelt before in TESB.

Pat Easley: Speaking of facial expressions, yes, I did notice the guilt in Ben's averted gaze as he lied to Luke about Anakin. Also noticed his peculiar look when Luke said, "I want to come with you to Alderaan...and become a Jedi like my father." (Emphasis mine) It's fun to wonder what might've gone through Ben's mind in these scenes, but reality keeps tossing cold water on the fun. I doubt that Alec Guinness, who made those expressions, knew any more than the audience knew about the identity of Luke's father. Still...while watching the Saga, I'd rather speculate on a character's thoughts than an actor's. About Darth Vader in TESB... Yes, I believe Vader had feelings for his son in that film, and like you, I believe that Vader was aware of those feelings. When the Emperor suggests that Luke is a threat, Vader quickly responds with, "He's just a boy." His remark seemed to echo Kenobi's protective insult in the cantina, "This little one's not worth the effort." About the book, I AM LEG-
END... That's one of the very few vampire stories I've found entertaining. I wish I could come up with more about that "older and shrunken order" that I suggested pre-dates the Jedi. Kenobi's remark (in the ANH novelization) just gave me some vague mental images of long, long ago--Force users persecuted by the ignorant, and driven to use the Dark Side for self protection. When I read that line in the novelization, I immediately thought of Earth-style persecution of "witches"--a subject I know very little about. Maybe someone more knowledgeable in this area will tell us, in a story, what Kenobi was talking about. By the way, the fan stories I referred to last ish, while theorizing on this, were: "Quisling" by Laymon & Goldstein (KESSEL RUN 2) and several Vader stories, in various zines, by Carol Hines-Stroede. About Anakin's fall... Loved your speculation that Ben might've cast him out before he'd become a hopeless case. Perhaps Anakin had been falling by degrees and Ben knew neither how to stop him nor at what point Anakin might still be saved. Still, I can't bring myself to haul out the cat o' ninetails for ol' Ben. (I've done that enough in previous letters.) Anakin was Ben's prize student and his friend; Ben must've been very sure, however wrong he might've been, that Anakin couldn't be saved from the Dark Side.

And I certainly wouldn't want to be put in the position Ben had been in--having to choose between a friend's life and the welfare of others. Not knowing the "Lucasfilm Facts", I tend to see both Anakin and Ben Kenobi as victims of a tragedy where "right" and "wrong" were very hard to define.

Michelle Malkin: Interesting thought that Yoda couldn't see Luke's role in future Galactic history. Perhaps the whole Skywalker line possessed some quality (like Siona Atreides in GOD EMPEROR OF DUNE) that prevented Yoda's seeing their activities in future vision. Your paralleling Dagobah with Brigadoon has given me a fanciful thought. ("Da-go-BAH, Da-go-BAH, bloomin' under murky skies!") What if Yoda had been around much longer than 900 years? What if he'd been born before the 20,000 year old Jedi order and Republic, only appearing on this plane of existence now and then, and like the townsfolk of Brigadoon, only aging as long as that appearance lasted? Well, I said the idea was fanciful...but it sure does suggest possibilities for filksongs!

Carolyn Colledge: Congratulations on your pro-novel! What's the title? ((Ed: Unfortunately, the deal for the sale of Carolyn's novel, "No Escape", fell through. However, she is currently contacting other publishers. Best of luck to you, Carolyn!)) I have "right!" scrawled beside your comments re Luke's lack of military experience in ANH. Fresh off the sandfarm, it's very likely that Luke never gave thought to the fact that he was leaving an all-important droid unprotected as he went to rescue Leia. Han, who probably did know better, should've explained the nasty facts of war, rather than letting the smell of money lure him to follow Luke...but I can't damn Solo for this. He wasn't part of the Rebellion, he didn't pretend to care about it, and he owed the Alliance nothing. In fact, the Alliance owed Han--15,000 credits. At that point, I think Han was just a very smart survivor, in a tight spot, trying to make the best of an unexpectedly bad turn of events. That's what fascinated me about Han in ANH. He was a tough, cynical man thrust into circumstance that--in the end--brought out an idealism he'd probably left for dead on some rimworld, long ago. But the important point is, that idealism wasn't dead, and I don't think anyone could've revived it against Han's will. One wonders what events in Han's life psychologically prepared him to take that last-minute heroic action at the end of ANH. About Pat Nussman's "Love's Mysteries" (KESSEL RUN #2)... Yes, that was an excellent story. I think of this tale as "the way it must've happened."

Sally Smith: I had to laugh when you qualified your statements about Han by reminding everyone that your remarks were intended as compliments. I've often found myself doing the same thing, both in fandom and outside. Always best to know another's standard of measure before assuming you've been insulted.

Sally Syrjala: Although I have a different view of Vader, I'd love to see some fiction based on that "double agent" idea. That's worth a whole series of Vader stories, pre-ANH through ROTJ. As for Vader's good deeds on screen, I think some of his actions are evidence that he had his own brand of honor and his own standards of decency.

Jeanine Hennig: As I was saying, last ish, the best articles make me think of things I wouldn't have thought of on my own... Black jock straps for Jedi and phallic lightsabers, eh? Do you think the appearance, size, strength, etc., of a saber is any

indication of...well, never mind. Loud applause for your defense of everyone's right to see SW characters in his/her own way. Awhile back, I read a LoC that criticized an author for sending her Jedi Knights to a brothel. The critic seemed to feel that this wasn't very believable. I sat there slapping my head and saying, "But that was such a wonderfully realistic touch! How can anyone say..." Believable is often in the eyes of the beholder.

Vonnie Fleming: In light of Jenni's latest article, yes, I can imagine Vader inviting some lucky lady to see his lightsaber collection. Lucky, indeed. I believe Vader was a fully-trained Jedi (or damned close to Graduation Day) when he fell to the Dark Side, but it's hard to tell from dialogue in the films. Ben refers to Anakin as "a young Jedi" and Luke (as well as Yoda) uses "Jedi" in reference to fully-trained knights, yet other lines contradict this: Ben calls Anakin/Darth "a pupil" and Vader says he was "a learner" when he'd left Kenobi and the Knighthood. Perhaps Anakin had been fully trained but hadn't yet undergone some crucial test. Re Yoda's gruff manner with Luke... Irritating it was, but given Yoda's sterling character, I think of his gruffness as his one redeeming flaw! Hey, this business of plugging other folks' stories/zines is a good idea. Your comments about a story in SITH YEARBOOK (and Susan Henderson's remarks about Imperial characters) prompted me to send for that zine.

Lin S. Ward: Liked your thought that Luke's vision of Bespin might've been a moral test. Yoda didn't seem to feel that Luke made the right choice (going to help Han and Leia), but does Yoda's belief that a decision is wrong make it wrong? Yoda is the highest level Jedi Master that we've seen, but does this make him the Final Authority among Jedi or the wisest being in the SW universe?

Liz Sharpe: Very much enjoyed your Clones article, especially the parts about the Jedi and the average citizen's view of that Order, but I'm confused about the scientific side of your article. Must a clone look exactly like the individual who donated cells to form him? In a LoC to another zine, Susan Matthews gave an explanation for why this is not necessarily so. I don't know enough about this subject to agree or disagree with either of you, but I'd like to see more on this from those better informed on this than I am.

Marlene Karkoska: About Luke's being allowed to keep his surname... Yes, that's always puzzled me, too--just as it's always puzzled me that Kenobi kept his surname and (rather uselessly, I'd say!) changed only his given name. Perhaps "Skywalker" and "Kenobi" are very common names in the SW universe. I imagine long columns of Kenobis and Skywalkers in some immense interstellar comlink directory... Yoda, on his dying breath, gasped: "There is...another...Skywalker." Perhaps Luke's line should've been: "Sure, but which one?"



Mary Keever
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April 16, 1986

Hello! Hope everyone is doing fine. Spring is here. Hurrah!

I really appreciated the poem on the cover of SE#11. The space shuttle tragedy was such a sad event that seemed to touch all of America. Thanks, Cheree.

Love the new mastheads. Three cheers for Judith!

Congrats to Liz Sharpe on a very fine, well-thought article. It was great. Like being in an enjoyable history lesson with a good teacher. I especially agree with you on "compromise."

Jeanine Hennig: Loved your "Private Life..." Just one question, tho; why does Luke refer to a certain part of his body as his "sabre of love"??!

As to the "Hot Flash": In the most recent issue of BANTHA TRACKS, Maureen Garrett steps down as Director of the fan club. There is no reason given. Also, in the May STARLOG, there is a new ad for the SW/LFFC. The ad seems to stress LF more than SW.

Linda Deneroff: I think one direction SE could go in (which is mentioned a few times in this ish) is feedback on stories, authors and artists.

Michelle Malkin: Liked your comments on the triad idea. It seem to be popping up a lot lately. Jeanine Hennig's last chapter of "Catalyst!" (and oh WHAT a triad it was) and in "Dayna's Story" of the cartoon ROBOTECH. (Any ROBOTECH fans out there?)

Matthew Whitney: Your comments about SW being looked upon as "kiddish" by the male populace are so true. I was reading SE at work yesterday and one of the "young" guys at work asked what I was reading and why I was marking it up. I explained SE and how it related to SW (as he already knew I was a SW fan). He said, "Oh, I used to love STAR WARS and EMPIRE. I had a lot of the books and toys but I've grown up now. It's a kid's thing." I said, "Oh, yeah? How old do you think I am?" His answer: "You're a girl..." Sigh...

Tim Blaes: Three cheers for you! Another NORTH AND SOUTH fan. I was a couch potato that whole week (and soon to be again).

Also, ROCK AND RULE has been on cable this month.

Carol Mularski: Liked what you had to say about mistakes and sins. You choose a sin, a mistake just happens.

Sally Syrjala: Re YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES. Did you also catch the resemblance to ROTJ? Especially the "final confrontation" scene between student and master. It looked like the Darth/Luke sabre duel in the Emperor's throne room.

Kerri Smithline: Enjoyed your thoughts on the Emperor being a clone or android. What a SCARY thought! I've also thought perhaps the Emperor has relatives. An evil grandson or (heh, heh) granddaughter to try to seduce Luke to the Dark.

Carole Regine: Hi! Not again... Okay, okay, so I don't have "proof" that Luke is a virgin. It just seems to fit his character. I would've gladly warmed his chilly bones (and his sabre of love--hee hee!).

I like your idea that Luke and Leia may have been on Dagobah before. Can you picture a fit-to-be-tied Yoda potty training Luke!!

Maggie Nowakowska: The Solo relative on the

Hardy Boys is Parker Stevenson. He was in an Alfred Hitchcock episode this season.

Also enjoyed your comments on power users remaining virgins. (So that's why Luke is...)

Sandi Jones: I had not read DUNE. I thoroughly enjoyed the movie and had no trouble following the story at all.

Bev Clark: Right on! Owen didn't tell Luke the truth about his father and no one seems to care or question it. Shouldn't he be dragged over the coals a bit, too??

Jeanine Hennig: Did you see MH in the new ZZ Top video? Ha! I enjoyed seeing Mark on the tube but was a bit disappointed in "Gather Ye Acorns". It seemed to fall flat.

Yes, as a matter of fact, those Jedi briefs had a little silver "J" on them! Oh, please! Don't get me started on the bionic hand. (Remember, Idicon and that purple thing?! Ho boy!)

Lisa Thomas: Howdy! What rep?! Just kidding! When Jenni and I are through with the bionic hand, we'll send it your way.

Pat Easley: I loved ENEMY MINE. The sets were fantastic. I thought the Drac language was beautiful, so melodic! The story was great! Did you like it?

Is anyone going to Conzineience that wants to split a room? If so, drop me a line.

Cheree, thanks again for another great issue of SE! Till next time...

Force-Visions

Kerry Smithline
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April 16, 1986

A question--could somebody define the attributes of a Force-sensitive, a student Jedi, a full Jedi, and a Jedi master? What subjects does one have to pass to attain each level from the one before?

Lin Ward: Does this mean Tatooine is the pits?

Michelle Malkin: Could Owen's repression of Luke stem from his own lost dreams of glory, possibly as a Jedi? He doesn't want Luke to suffer as he (and Beru?) did. Skywalker is probably a common enough name, like our Smith or Jones, and I really doubt that there is only one Skywalker listed in the galaxial telephone book.

Tim Blaes: How about "Man Lives 37 Years Without Eating"? ((Ed: My favorite is "Unmarried Ex-Nun Pregnant by the Devil.")) As to why DV told the Emperor, Vader reported everything to his master. In the movies, he seemed to be semi-autonomous, and whatever wasn't reported, old Brainburn probably had his ways of finding out.

Carole Regine: The novelization says that Leia's visions of her mother were like a dream. Could Leia (who does have the Force, whether we want her to or not) have had Force-visions during the stressful times of her life? Like after she was told of her adoption? Was Bail Organa married? When she needed or wanted very much to have her mother with her, she could go into a kind of day-dream and "see" her mother that gave her up (prob-

ably not of her own choice) as a beautiful and unhappy lady. Luke doesn't remember anything because Owen kept him too busy to think about anything else. Also, just how much Owen and Beru (were they Luke's real aunt and uncle, or just close friends of either parent?) tell Luke about his mother?

Marlene Karkoska: In answer to your Uncle Owen question--Owen and Anakin and Ben were best buddies at one time, until they all entered the Jedi brotherhood together, and Owen didn't quite make it. (See above answer to Mickey.) It was obvious that Ben could not take in an infant to raise; Owen lived not far away on Tatooine and was married. Maybe they hadn't spoken in many years, but if Ben reminded Owen of their old friendship and worked on the sympathy of Beru...

Linda Deneroff: I think the only great work of literature that has not been compared to the trilogy is the Bible. But give it time.

Sally Syrjala: If Han is Kirk, Luke is Spock, who is McCoy, Leia? Always knew that Vader was a double agent. The only rebel that Vader personally killed (the rest were Imperials) was Captain Antilles (could he have been an Imperial spy?). Vader told Leia, when they were alone and he was supposedly torturing her, that Kenobi was interfering and that he would be forced (no pun, there) to kill him, if there was any further interference from him. Leia was sleeping quite peacefully and none the worse for wear, when Luke burst in on her, and mentioned Kenobi. Her only interest at that point (as evidenced by her excitement at Kenobi's name) was to find Ben and warn him that Vader was coming after her. (She made the hologram before Vader came clean.) And finally the hand-cutting-off was purely an accident. Vader was under terrible duress, and simply miscalculated his slice. He only wanted to knock the saber from his son's hand.

Maggie Nowakowska: Could that young man from the Hardy Boys be Parker Stevenson, who played Frank Hardy?

Jeanine Hennig: May I call you Jenni? Great little article there. Now how about an article or couple of lines on what female Jedi wear under their robes? Any ideas, Tim and Matthew?

Comprehensive Picture

Lin S. Ward
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April 15, 1986

Was fascinated by all the reports of Lucas' operations, and shocked by the lay-off of the Fan Club Staff. Mo Garrett must have been warned, because her resignation was printed in the last BT.

Liz Sharpe's article on the Clone Wars was fascinating. I was particularly struck by her suggestions that the advent of clones could shake the foundations of democracy. Found particularly intriguing her suggestions that other factors might have been that the Jedi lacked a strong leader, that Vader was initially hailed as a savior, and that Luke and Leia might have been separated partly

because of the cloning controversy. If we continue to get articles like this one, along with Jeanine Hennig's and Sandra Necchi's, we'll have a comprehensive picture of the OR without Lucas!

Mary Kever: Loved the picture of you and your "hot date"! I thought the story in BATTLE FOR ENDOR moved rather slowly for adults, but the film was well-produced, with interesting characters, great make-up and special effects, and strong morals.

Michelle Malkin: I want to read that story about how the characters would've developed if ANH had never happened!

Exciting idea that Luke might not even try to reestablish a Jedi order, but instead would work to train all espers. Also liked your thought that Luke was a focal point who kept baffling Yoda and his visions. I'd love to know what Yoda's vision of the future was, what conceptions of it lay beneath his behavior!

Sally Syrjala: Fascinating alternate idea that Vader could've been a spy; what an agonizing position for him! Maybe Yoda could've put him in that insidious position, based on his visions of the future!

"The Force as a reservoir of potential"--beautifully phrased; it fits all the statements in the films!

Kerri Smithline: Palpatine cloning Dark Jedi--it's positively diabolical!! What a great story idea! So, then where did these clones disappear to? Are they still hiding out, lying in time capsules somewhere, just waiting to be found!!! Also, maybe the cryogenic prolongation of life promoted the Emperor's evil, in that he had a few centuries to pick up some bad habits.

Interesting suggestion that Ben might've absorbed Luke's power, so that he never realized it was there...hmm...can the Emperor do that, too?

Carole Regine: Luke said he had "no memory of his mother", but I have wondered why Luke thought Dagobah "felt familiar." If he hadn't been there with his mother, could it have been intended as a hint at genetic memory, as in returning to the beginning of the world, rebirth?

Seems quite possible that Kenobi was a greatly changed man after his confrontation with Vader, and retreat into hiding. There's another gripping story idea!

Marlene Karkoska: Liked your story idea about why Owen would take in Luke. I wonder if Owen (as well as Kenobi) was a greatly changed man after the Clone Wars? Maybe the reason he took in Luke had something to do with his own experiences during the Clone Wars? (Loss of his children, loss of his beliefs, loss of dreams?) Or, maybe he adopted Luke for old times' sake, to honor the people they'd all been before the Holocaust?

I agree with your ideas about Yoda and Ben training Luke and ignoring other Force potential. I have no explanation, unless others with Force talent had so little of it that Yoda and Ben feared the trainees would end up with enough talent to be detectable, but not enough to beat Vader and the Emperor. If the Skywalker family was historically much more talented than other Force-users, it would explain the emphasis on them and Yoda's comment "there is another" (not "there are others"). But then in this scenario, it's hard to explain why Ben, instead of Yoda, tried to train Vader. They must not have been aware of the Skywalkers' great strength until it was too late.

Maggie Nowakowska: Your fandom matrix is terrific, but are you really suggesting that there are

NONFANZINE fans???? Say it isn't so! The idea that sentience has overprinted instinct in Force users is brilliantly simple! Perceptive comment also that power loss might have become associated with marriage/sex, as opposed to the true culprit, puberty.

Carolyn Colledge: Interesting insights on Solo as non-human lover, and reluctance to blow the Death Star because of the innocents lost; I can believe that Luke wasn't seeing "the Big Picture" at that point in his development.

Hmm, maybe Yoda was not normally as brusque as he behaved in EMPIRE; he seemed much more good-natured in JEDI, although it could be attributed to weakness, I suppose. But, in JEDI, he didn't sound at all querulous or feisty.

Wow! What a thought, that Leia was the one who was holding back in TESB...it's, it's...another great vignette idea!

I'd love to read an introduction to stories, where the writers explain how they came by their ideas! I've corresponded with a couple of BNF writers who were kind enough to fill me in on the backgrounds of their "universes"; it was thrilling, stimulating, and so gratifying! The contents of their notebooks were impressively comprehensive, and indicate why a particular story seems so rich and well-thought-out, it's because it's just the tip of the iceberg of ideas. Speaking of whom...

Chris Callahan: The review I read of WIND RIDER was "puke-city". Even FIRES OF AZEROTH, by the intrepid C. J. Cherryh, is undignified with an illo of Morgaine clad in little strips of chain mail. Grrrr! Last night I mentioned this to a male friend; unfortunately, he'd brought over his new SF ENCYCLOPEDIA to show, and spent the evening gleefully pointing out the numerous bookcovers that did not flash naked ladies. He's read a lot of older SF from the 30's and 40's, and told me that prevalent plots were "all wars and rockets." His theory is that women started reading SF when the stories turned more to concepts and characterizations. Any comments?

Jeannie Webster: As to A. C. Crispin's comments on media fiction, I have only a derisive snort to offer. See my previous comments on fan writers!

B. J. Evans: Did Lucas really say he'd get back to SW? Was this recently? I'm afraid the lay-off of the Fan Club staff is an ominous sign, although they haven't been doing much with SW lately, anyway.

Jeanine Hennig: SW tarot is a fabulous idea! Paula Block made about 30 cards for PEGASUS that were so good, I pulled out my tarot board and tried to cast a round. I think I couldn't finish because there weren't enough cards, or something. Anyway, maybe she'd be willing to have some fans use what she'd done, and build from there?

Liz Sharpe: I nominate Tish Wells as "Artist of the Month." Her illos are full of movement, vitality, grace, balance and texture. Her unique style is pleasing and her pieces engrossing.

Pat Easley: One of the actors in an interview said something about how they don't know what the director said to Alec Guinness to get that particular evasive, and yes, I'd call it guilty expression.

All: I just finished listening again to the TESB radio show. I noticed something curious at the end of the program. While Luke seemed confused and disillusioned as he sped away from Cloud City aboard the Falcon, by the time Chewie and Lando were leaving for Tatooine, Luke is bubbling with confidence and good cheer. While Leia expresses concern for Chewie and Lando's welfare, Luke gaily

assures her that they'll be fine. It seems as if he underwent some serious attitude adjustment between the time he confronted Vader and lost his hand, and the time he received his prosthetic hand and saw off Chewie and Lando. I wonder how much time elapsed during this interval? What did he learn, or envision, to revive his optimism?

Hope to see you all at WorldCon!

XWING83

Sally Smith
38725 Lexington #247
Fremont, CA 94536

April 23, 1986

Hullo again. I'm sneaking some time in at work to write this (yes, I've gotten--*gasp*--a Real Job! Only for 6 weeks, though).

By now, everyone will have hashed and rehashed the CHALLENGER tragedy, so I'll just say I agree with Deke Slayton: "Find what went wrong. Fix it. Fly again." On to happier topics.

"Clones" article: Fascinating, as our favorite Vulcan would say. Also well-written and plausible.

PLOTJ: Whoo! Whoop! Yahoo! Chortle! Bravo! Of course, you all expected me to love that, right? Yea, Jenni.

I've gotten a new California license plate: "XWING83" (it's a 1983 car, and XWING 1-9 were all taken).

Regarding Kane, uh, Lucas: There hasn't even been much in the local media lately. I did get to be an extra in "Howard the Duck" and so can report George is in fact alive and well and looking pretty relaxed.

Regarding STAR TREK: One of the TV weathermen announced last night he's been asked to be an official weatherman for STIV. Don't know exactly what THAT means, but will keep my eyes peeled for anything.

Onto the letters. Another enjoyable, non-in-furiating issue (whew!)

Linda D. and everyone: Regarding the seemingly endless debate over "droid rights", machine sentience, etc., the place where I'm working (Stanford U. experimental computers in medicine dept.) has projects that are right out on the cutting edge of artificial intelligence. F'instance, there's one in which a doctor can input a patient's symptoms and the computer will tell you what disease the person has and how best to treat it. These programs (called "expert systems" if I'm learning the jargon right) are written to "learn" and get smarter the more they're used. These currently-meaningless questions we're debating may become important before too long.

Mary K: I've got a Luke doll, too! I found a ~~swack~~ gaffiated fan who sold me the WHOLE set of large size action figures for \$200. About "Slow Boat to Bespin": that's what provoked The Great LFL Guideline Flap, if I remember my fannish history aright. "The Holy Sisters of Luke's Black Glove"?! Kinky, but I like it...

Mickey: I'm not 40, but I got your Stang reference anyway. And my mom used to buy about a gross of black masks every year so I could be Zorro, too!

Matt: Thanks for not bowing to peer pressure and sticking with us.

Tim: I played the same Civil War RPG, also as a Southern extremist. I prevented secession, too. Mostly because the kids from the North were dumber than your average womprat. I tried picturing Mark and Harrison with pointy ears and Carrie blue-skinned and cracked up. Check out my Han filk to "Only the Good Die Young" in TREMOR IN THE FORCE #1 (where's my check, Cheree?). ROCK AND RULE is on cable this month. There's a guy at my college whose license plate reads "ACK GAG" and plate frame says "Chaufeur to Bill the Cat".

Carol Mularski: Welcome back. I nearly choked reading your letter when I came across your RS reference. Ha! Very appropriate and well-put.

Lin: Thanks for the Startone address. I'm all for writing our own ROTJ radio show, but where would we find enough male voices to do it? Tim and Matt would get laryngitis eventually (bad enough they're going to lose their pancreases. Pancreasi?). And, how would we all agree on what to fill the "Reprensible Gaps" with when we can't even agree on what's in the movie now?!

About what editors, etc. want in a LoC. If you don't want to comment on everything, don't. Say what you liked, what you didn't like, and why. Criticism can be painful to hear, but it's the only way to learn. Of course, if you want to babble unreservedly about how wonderful a zine is, that's always welcome, too! Hope that gives you some hints. Now I'll be expecting a LoC from you, ahem. And everyone else, or I'll have to quiver my antennae.

Glad you liked my "actors thinking about lunch" theory. A plague of locusts has nothing on a cast and crew descending on the catering truck. Ditto taking their opportunity to catch a nap whenever possible.

Carole: Yes, all us Marysues hope Lukie-poo accepted an offer--as long as he waited for OUR offer, right? On your "Just a Thought", though--Luke said in the film, "I have no memory of [my mother]."

Maggie: Agree heartily with your comments on West Coast geography. I'll drive 250 miles round-trip for a weekend without thinking about it, though I'm tired of ~~idly~~ people intimating I can pop down to L.A. whenever I want. It's an eight-hour drive, folks--about as far as Boston to D.C. or New York to Cleveland. ((Ed: Reminds me of a story my dad told, of a man who drove into a gas station in my home town, just east of Dallas. As he filled up his car, he looked somewhat frazzled and asked one of the men, "Where am I?" "Forney," the mechanic answered. "Is that in Texas?" the man asked. Upon confirmation, he sighed and said, "I was afraid of that. I came in at El Paso and I've been driving for two days and I can't get out of this damned state!")

Steve Martin as a Solo cousin! I picture a cartoon of Han opening the hatch to find a guy in Corellian spacer garb with an arrow through his head. Smuggling is not pretty!

About your chart, I fall into all 3 of the bottom categories, as well as the OFSWFC (if it still exists--nobody at Xanadu, uh, I mean the Ranch, will return my calls). I joined that just to get posters cheap.

Sandi: You, "shy and reticent"? Choke. Look-

ing forward to more Luke (and others) lust with you Real Soon Now.

Bev: Liked your comments regarding xenophobia, but feel compelled to point out that everyone's use of "human" and "non-human" is ethnocentric in itself. Many tribes have names that mean "the people" or "real people"; James White in one of his "Sector General" novels (ripping good stuff, those) says that all of his various galactic species call themselves something that in their language translates to "human". Darned if I know what we'd use as a substitute, though, so I guess we're all stuck. Guess I really just wanted to nitpick. Nothing personal, your letter just touched that thought off.

Jeannie: How about "Hell Toupee" on AS? Another weird comedy. And I don't live in a town named for a dog, it's named for the guy in Richard Chamberlain's last miniseries! Geez, some people are SO stupid!

Jenni: Mark in ZZ Top! Hee! Yes, yes, please do a SW tarot!! Luke's bionic hand...with attachments, natch, hummmm... (rest of sentence censored so Cheree can keep it PG). I dunno if I'm a BNF, but judging by my phone bill, I'm definitely a BMF.

Liz: Liked your comments about LoCs. When can I see Annie's valiant bid for shoelace conquest?

Pat Easley: That bad dubbing in the sailbarge scene has always bothered me, too. ((Ed: There just seems to be generally bad sfx in that sequence and in the Rancor scene--bad matte jobs, jerky model action, etc. They must have really been pushing a deadline during those sequences.))

Cheree: Whaddaya mean, Han's "all tied up"? My goodness, that implies either (a) he's unwilling, or (b) you and he have stranger tastes than I thought. Of course, I'm so pure-minded (stop that choking, everyone!). ((Ed: No comment.))

It seems we all think there are SW/ST parallels, though nobody can agree on just exactly who corresponds to who!

Lastly (thank the Force, I'm getting a writer's and typer's cramp): I got my legal tape of ROTJ (oh joy!), but it looks "squashed"--everyone's a little shorter and squatter than they ought to be, as if someone had overcompensated when putting the wide-screen image on tape. Is it just my tape, VCR, TV or has anyone else gotten this problem? ((Ed: To me, the most glaring thing was the over-compensation on the sound track, trying to imitate THX Dolby on a mono TV sound system--Darth and Jabba fairly blast you out of your seat when they speak!))

See my new improved ad for WELL OF THE SOULS in the Marketplace and send your/entire/wallet those orders in. I need the money!

FINALLY, see y'all at MediaWest*Con! You'll know me; I'm the one with the antennae who's NOT Annie or Liz, and is mumbling obscene things about Luke. Blond bombshell fen--look me up!

MTFB with us all!



Tim Blaes
Route 6, Box 294
Hendersonville, NC 28739

April 24, 1986

I was at work when I heard the CHALLENGER blew. I had been 20 minutes late for lunch and had just bolted down my meal. The speakers in the cafeteria were very low and set on some insipid "easy listening" station, and I noticed that they were doing a newsbreak at an odd time, and they were mentioning something about Dick Scobee's family. Why would they do that, unless...I was directly under a speaker, but I had to strain to hear what was being said, and it was a while before I understood the shuttle had exploded. I shook a little, registered a few denials with Deity, and went numb for the rest of the workday. The possibility that the crew might have somehow survived seemed viable to me, until I actually saw the explosion at Freeman's Newsstand. A few old men were there, some upset at the interruption in their normal viewing habits. An ugly bald man with fat ears thought this was a good time to mention that the Apollo program was a waste of money, and I said something to him. The old fart looked at me with absolute astonishment that I would disagree with him, and his reply told me I should have known better than to say anything.

When I got home, I started taping the news, skipping between ABC and NBC. I did a very bad job of recording, and I missed a lot of good stuff, but ten years from now, I'll pull this tape out and remember, or maybe I'll be able to show it to my kids.

At least two self-proclaimed Collector's Editions on the shuttle disaster hit the stands a week after. On page one of "A Tribute to America's Space Heroes" it informed me that the author "George Carpozi, Jr. is eminently qualified to write this story about the fatal flight of the shuttle CHALLENGER because he is the author of SUNSTRIKE, the best-selling science fiction book about a mad scientist who steals off in a futuristic second-generation shuttle and proceeds to blot out the sun with a plastic screen to freeze and conquer the Earth." Fascinating.

How many of you know about the Golden Trivia STAR TREK Edition? If you don't, it's understandable. Friends and I knew about Western Publishing's intention to produce the game well over a year ago, and had been looking all over for it. I finally found the set at Macon Opus Con 1, at about twice the store price. The dealer said that it had been out for eight months, but none of the stores around here would admit that the game existed. There seemed to be some sort of snafu in distribution. Western Pub said that part of it was because the bottom fell out of the trivia game market; after the glut of Trivial Pursuit rip-offs, the stores wouldn't carry most of them anymore. But the game does exist, and it's a good one, too. Only a handful of mistakes in it. I would suggest that interested fans ask for this game at all stores that carry Golden Trivia games, and perhaps at stores that don't, and let's see if we can get the game moving. (Western Pub had planned to produce a second set of cards before the ST Edition stalled.)

Liz Sharpe: Liked your Clone article. GL said that the "world" of the first trilogy will be very different from the one we've just seen. There's no telling how close you are to what he has planned, but it feels close to what he might pull. If the

Jedi realized what was going to happen to them in time, might they have set up a sperm/ova/cloneable cell bank someplace? This is presuming that at least some of the Jedi potential is genetic. I half expected George to do this when I read a pre-ROTJ blurb about the moon of Endor, and how Luke was to discover the "secrets" of the forest moon.

Linda Deneroff: When we discuss SW in the context of literature, it can't help but be compared and measured beside other similar works. I see no harm in looking at the Saga through different filters, or even a funhouse mirror or two.

Where is SW fandom going? I'm not sure that it's going anywhere. We're much too occupied watching the mud fly to notice that we are spinning our wheels.

"Android" means, I think, "in the form of a man." This definition could refer to a mind rather than a form, so R2 could be considered an android.

Mary Keever: Once upon a time a zine-ed sent a story to Lucasfilm because the zine-ed feared they might object to it. But Lucasfilm said it was okay to print the story, and the zine-ed did. Enter a Swedish fanzine called DARK LORD that published a sado-masochistic Han/Vader story. Lucasfilm screamed. This stupid rag, not even an American zine, started a chain reaction that has muddied the waters between us and Lucasfilm to this day. Maureen Garrett sent out letters threatening to shut down all fanzines, not just the SW zines. They over-reacted terribly and the whole thing was just pathetic.

A personal result of this mess, I don't trust Lucasfilm, could care less about the apparent dissolution of the OSWFC, and my opinion of George Lucas was tarnished, if not exactly damaged. George thinks he owns us, simply because he "permits" us to publish fanzines. He just can't grasp the idea that he can't or shouldn't control everything about him. I really don't want to dredge up this debate again. Our legal status is debateable and uncertain; the only way to find out would be in court, and I'm not eager for that to happen. But I'll kick the dead dog just once more and say this. These movies are indeed GL's "toys", but this is our "backyard"! If George wants to throw a tantrum and run off with his toys, that's fine with me. There are other things in life.

Just what is my kind of weird? (You asked for it, sweetcakes.) Well, I'm working with a friend to design our own role-playing game, tentatively titled "Modern Magic." It's full of things like heroic Demons, smurfs from space, and a sasquatch candidate for President (hey, he is an American citizen). The gods and goddesses of various pantheons are also running about, complete with a quasi-scientific explanation for their existence. After we get the system worked out, I have modules planned with such titles as "Santa Claus vs. the Ninja Hoard from Mars", "Against All Oz", and a proposed three-part module about a war between Smurftroopers and Communist Care Bears, with Earth caught in the middle (the sight of the first wave of the invasion will be a Hilton hotel somewhere in Michigan). One of the reasons I'm bringing this up is that once we get our act together and get this thing down on paper we will need art to include with it. Is there an artist in the house?

Michelle Malkin: Please write that book about the use of Luke's real name. I remember seeing most of that "Tarzana of the Ewoks" episode of the Ewoks cartoon. It's not quite as bad as I first thought it to be, but it still doesn't feel a part

of the same universe as the movies. In the cartoon Ewoks seem much less like aliens, and too much like the sort of humans George Lucas was raised by. Ewoks even have first names, last names, and middle initials? Ewoks should be more than just Furry Anglo-Saxon Protestants (FASPs?).

Matthew Whitney: How do I feel about losing my "monopoly" in SE by sharing its pages with you? Great! Now there are two small black dots on an all white canvas. Boy, does this make me feel less conspicuous. (By the way, how is your pancreas? You're not missing any vital organs, are you? Ya gotta watch these women.)

I still don't think Vader enjoys torture. When he choked the rebel at the start of ANH, it's rather clear to me that Vader lost his temper and snapped the man's neck unintentionally. Vader was seldom in control of his anger, and accounts for several lost opportunities on his part, but a bad temper is not sadism.

Ye Ed: There are a bunch of typos, mistakes and omissions in my LoC and they all can't be mine. I think you left Lisa Thomas' name out of my reply to her. And it was Gorbachev, not Andropov, I was talking about, though I know I can't spell either of their names properly. And I think you've been randomly dropping paragraphs out of my LoCs. I may be long, but not as much as some other letterhacks in SE. Who holds the record for the longest LoC? ((Ed's note: I have been very carefully marking off each paragraph as I type it so that I won't leave out any. Typos I plead freely to making; though I proof each page of SE, I can't catch them all. And to all of my readership I'd would say, if you think this job is a piece of cake--typing what amounts to 130-140 legal-size pages, all of which comes in roughly at the same time, proofing those pages, correcting mistakes, re-printing them, doing lay-out, paste-up, getting them to the printers, collated, stapled, addressed and mailed on time, four times a year, all of it squeezed into a more-than-full-time job, while also taking care of home and family and pets and occasional severe medical problems--try it sometime. In other words, walk a mile in my Adidas before you complain that the laces are knotted. And I do apologize if all this sounds like sour grapes; I truly do the very best I can. And, I think Marlene Karkoska probably has the record for longest LoC.))

Sally Syrjala: Your talk about Head/Heart/Hand sounds familiar. Did you just see METROPOLIS when you wrote that?

Vonnie Fleming: When I said that the story was "psychotic", I meant that it was about five unwritten pages away from turning into an s&m scene with Leia and an evil female pirate. Since I don't read Kirk/Spock fan fiction, I would be hypocritical to write something similar. And I would be foolish to write about something I have no first-hand knowledge of (I am not, nor have I ever been, a lesbian). However, I may come back to it, dump the s&m, kill the bitch pirate, and explain why Leia doesn't have the lightsaber Luke gave her in "Leia vs. Murphy's Law" (still in re-write, I'm afraid). If kinky sex is what you're after, then tune into Bev Lorenstein's PERFECT FUSION, whenever it comes out. It contains Yet Another Untitled Abomination By Yours Truly (although I suppose I could entitle it "Leather Loving Princess").

Lin S. Ward: What if Leia decides to dump the Alliance before they really want her to go. There has been some talk about Leia having the adapt to Han's lifestyle, and vice versa, but they could

just as easily meet halfway. Perhaps start a legit freighter company. There are all sorts of new worlds for the both of them.

Maggie Nowakowska: Interesting little chart you have there. It's about time somebody tried to sift things out. The problems with it is that a lot of people fit sideways between more than one category; I don't know exactly where I should place myself on the diagram.

Another thing; TREK magazine once did a "Fan on the Street" poll. They went out to shopping malls, theaters, schools, etc., and started asking questions to anybody who watched the show and knew more about it than "space ships" and "pointed ears". And there were lots of people they found out watch ST and have very definite opinions about the show, though they are not what we think of as "ST fans". In terms of likes and dislikes, the general audience of ST is not significantly different from ST fans. Perhaps the same can be said of STAR WARS and its audience/fans.

And then there is the "lone fan syndrome"; people who would be fans as we know them, but who simply don't know we exist as a group. I'm inclined to consider anybody fifteen years or older who has seen SW three times or more of their own volition to be a "sleeping fan."

There may indeed be only a few thousand fanzine fans (all media) scattered across the country, but we are the tip of the iceberg, the conscious mind that is a part of the unconscious mass audience. We are not the majority, but we are a fair representation of that majority.

So George tried to sue the Government and he got his butt burned. Well, dry tears in my eyes, sweetcakes! He got what was coming to him. I wonder who put it in his head that it was the Government who started using the term "Star Wars". I thought it was the press/public at large that applied it to space weapons. Reagan himself tried to stop the use of "Star Wars" to describe SDI. If they didn't have SW to compare it to, then they would be using STAR TREK, and if they didn't have ST, then they would use BUCK ROGERS for analogy. Count the number of ships blowing up on both sides in all three movies and tell me there is no legit allegory between SW and SDI. And how is a space defense system more of a "blind faith in machinery" than thousands of multiple warhead missiles cocked and ready to fire? Once we can protect ourselves, we can drop our gun from the temple of the Soviet citizen. The ideal set-up would be for us to go co-op with the USSR; we built it, they put it in orbit, and we both pay and maintain it. But that will never happen. When we proposed our SDI, how did the Soviet government respond? The inventors of the killer-satellite did not openly plan an SDI of their own, they threatened to render ours useless, overtaxing it with more of their missiles and by attacking our space defense system itself.

Bev Clark: What do I want from Lucasfilm? To be left alone, mostly. I felt uneasy about their request that every fanzine send four copies to four different places. George could never admit to reading a fanzine, so why ask for a copy? Did BANTHA TRACKS ever explain what a fanzine was or recommend any to its members? (They did reprint an article out of SKYWALKER. Big deal, it never happened again.) Not that it would have done us much good, as the majority of the OSWFC members are still in kindergarten. Lucasfilm/OSWFC has nothing that I truly want. They give us nothing but trinkets and very little useful information, yet treat us in a

very condescending manner. All I have to say to Lucasfilm is, Don't Tread On Me!

Jeanine Hennig: I hope you do go through and produce a SW tarot deck. Or perhaps a multi-media tarot deck with everything from ST to Greatest American Hero; then you would have a larger selection of characters and themes to incorporate than you would just using SW, a saga that isn't even over yet. I once toyed with the idea of creating my own tarot from scratch, for use in one of my stories. All I can remember about it now was one card, the Madman, that had to do with inspiration/creativity.

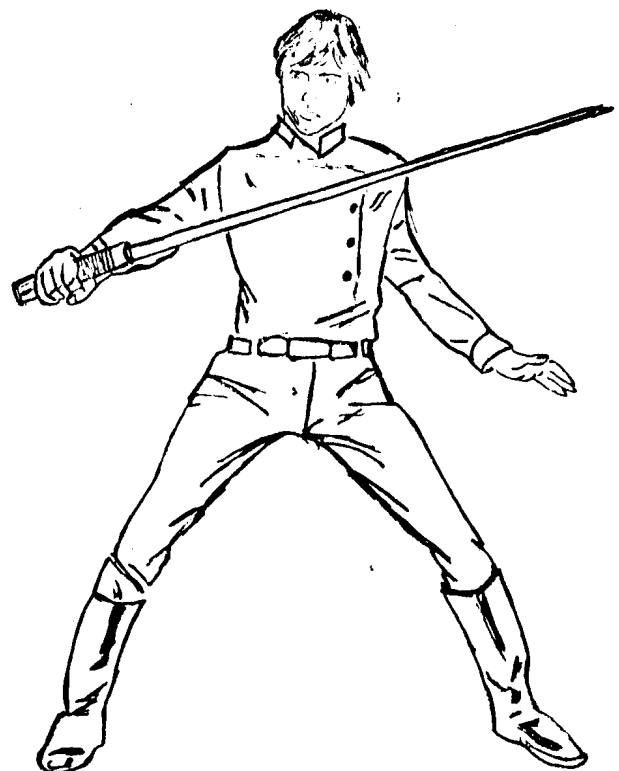
Pat Easley: About the only thing I didn't like about "I Am Legend" was the suicide of the hero at the end. ENEMY MINE is one of the year's best movies. I hope a sequel is in the works.

AMAZING STORIES suffers from half-baked plots, silliness, and globs of sugary sentimentality stuck on at the wrong moment. TWILIGHT ZONE could have done "Hell Toupee" much better. The story about the little girl in the coma and the old man who helps her was just fine, until the last few minutes when it turned syrupy. I don't even want to talk about "The Secret Cinema."

It's a pity that most of you don't read comics. SWAMP THING just wound up its "American Gothic", Earth now has half a dozen alien Green Lanterns camping out on the planet, and the JSA is forever trapped in a Goetterdaemmerung (the bodies are still dropping, even after "Crisis on Infinite Earths" is over). Does anybody know what I'm talking about? I didn't think so. If any of you non-comic readers out there would like to read what you've been missing, I would be glad to recommend what I find excellent and offer commentary.

Have you considered making transcripts of some of the panels at MediaWest and Conzineience this year? Many may not attend these conventions or may have to miss a panel.

From the Outer Limits of the Twilight Zone...





JUNE 1986

ISSUE NO. 12

In lieu of a con report, the following filk is offered in an attempt to sum up a week-end spent at MediaWest...

THE BALLAD OF MEDIAWEST*CON

by Cheree Cargill

Oh, Lord, won't you get me to MediaWest#Con?
My friends are in Lansing, having lots of fun.
With buttons and photos and zines by the ton.
Oh, Lord, won't you get me to MediaWest*Con?

Oh, Lord, won't you buy me a crate full of zines?
Four dozen buttons to wear on my jeans?
An armload of photos -- it's not what it seems,
But, oh, Lord, won't you buy me a crate full of zines?

Oh, Lord, won't you buy me a Liltz for my wall?
A Wagner or Dunster to hang in my hall?
That portrait of Harrison -- I think I want 'em all!
Oh, Lord, won't you buy me a Liltz for my wall?

Oh, Lord, won't you win me a Fan Q Award?
Worked hard on my fanzine, oh, so very hard.
I'm not a great artist and I'm not a bard,
But, oh, Lord, how I want just one Fan Q Award!

Oh, Lord, let me party each night 'til I drop!
And fill up on junk food, 'til I want to pop!
I'm having a great time -- I don't want to stop!
Oh, Lord, let me party each night 'til I drop!

Oh, Lord, won't you get me next year to the Con?
The weekend just flew past; where has it gone?
But it's on to the airport; farewell to Hilton.
Oh, Lord, won't you get me next year to the Con?

(to the tune of "Mercedes Benz" by Janis Joplin)

A few of the faces seen this year at MediaWest*Con...



Leah Rosenthal, Ann Wortham and Liz Sharpe

Sandi Jones and Jeannie Webster



(right) John and
Jeanine Hennig in
costume as Robin
and Marion



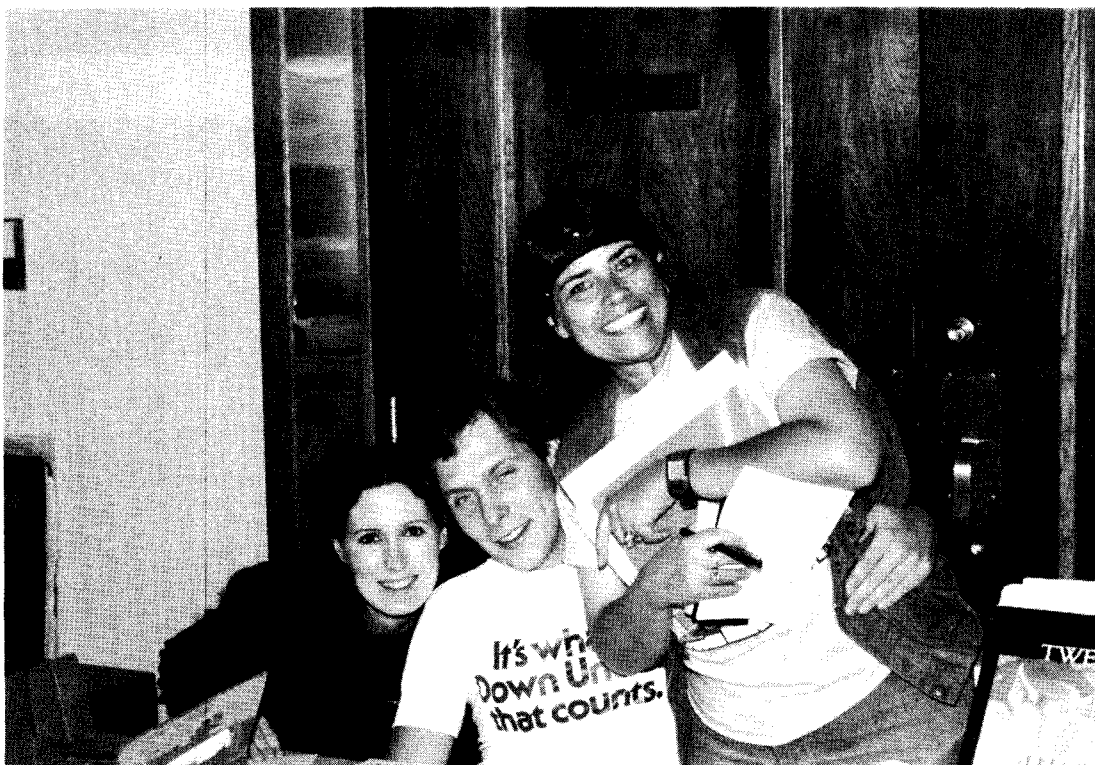
(below) Sally Smith
and Sandi Jones
(not Alias Smith
and Jones)





Jim Markle

Melea Fisher, Mark Fisher and Sandy Williams



Consumer Corner

Equal space will be
offered for replies.

From:

P. J. LaVasseur
1650 Wabash
Denver, CO 80220

About two years ago I put a deposit down on ERRANTRY 2 for \$5.00. I never heard anything back. I then sat down and wrote Regina Gottesman inquiring as to whether she even received the check. I heard nothing. I sat down and wrote again. All I wanted was a simple yes or no so I could make a stop payment and send another check out. To this day I still have not received the courtesy of a reply.



And Along Came Friday

BIT OF A flappola in the secret Marin world of Lucasville. Word's out that Sid Ganis, senior vice-pres. and sparkplug of the George Lucas empire, is quitting to join Paramount to take charge of worldwide distribution. Further news: About 15 heads will be lopped in an economy move, and the No. 1 Lucasville joke — not to George — goes "How does George Lucas screw in a light bulb?" Answer: "He doesn't. He just holds it up and the world revolves around HIM"

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Please specify issue starting number. Back issues
#3-11 available for \$2.00 each. SE#1 2 are sold
out.

Deadline for #13 -- August 1, 1986

Editor's Desk

A fund has been set up for the benefit of the children of the Challenger astronauts. If you would like to contribute, the address is:

Space Shuttle Children's Fund
c/o American Security Bank
P. O. Box 0150
Washington, D.C. 20055

The largest contributor to the Space Shuttle Children's Fund (as of this printing, totalling over \$600,000) is Steven Spielberg, who personally contributed \$50,000 to the cause. A hearty hand for Steven!

And another round of appaluse to Judith Low for two more new mastheads for the "Certain Point of View" and Review sections! Hopefully, her work will grace SE for a long time to come!

On to other matters, as of this issue, I am being forced to raise prices again. The subscription rate has stayed the same for about two years now, but, unfortunately, printing and postage costs have not. Printing costs have gone up around \$200 per issue since 1984 and postage is running over a \$1.00 a copy now. Multiply that by 75 or 80 and it starts to add up! Since I can only afford to publish SE if it pays for itself, I am forced to raise the price by 50¢ an issue. Therefore, beginning this issue, subscription rates will be \$4.00 per issue, \$12.00 for 3 issues, or \$16.00 for a year (4 issues). Hopefully this will allow SE to run for a long time to come.

A note from Pat Nussman: Eluki bes Shahar has just sold a Regency romance to St. Martin's Press. It will be issued in hardback in 1987 under the pen name of Rosemary Edgehill. The title isn't set in stone yet, but Eluki's working title is: TWO OF A KIND. Congratulations, Eluki!

As you may have noticed, there are no articles or reviews this issue. That's because nobody sent any in! Come on, folks! Now that MediaWest is over and you are all stocked up with new zines and new ideas, let's see those articles start rolling in!

ART CREDITS:

Judith Low -- mastheads
Ronda Henderson -- 14, 18, 23, 24
Carol Peters -- 20, 39, 42
Cheree Cargill -- 43

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This is Carol Peters' speeder bike. She won it in a contest that K-Mart and Lucasfilm ran in 1985. They were made only for the contest and aren't for sale.

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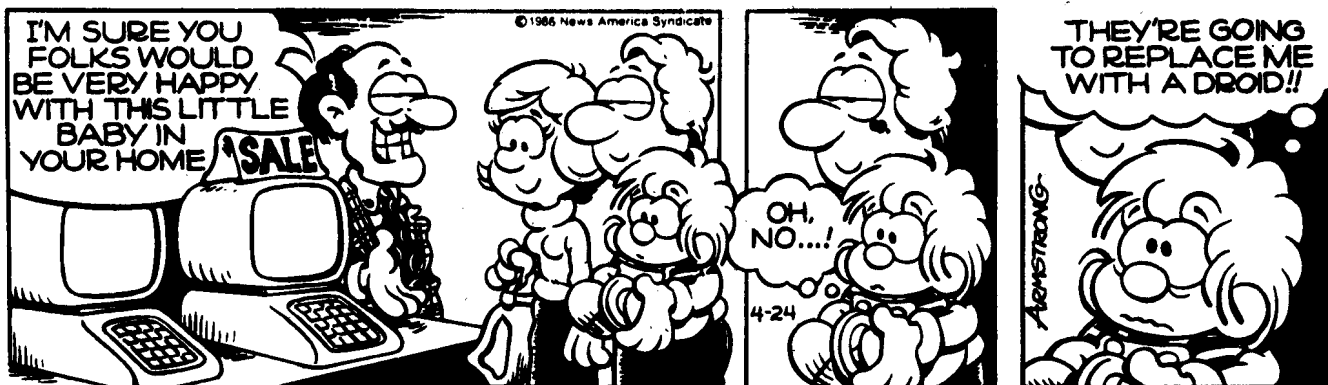
BERRY'S WORLD By Jim Berry



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"I expected Halley's to be much more George Lucasy!"

MARVIN



FAN WARS

Amidst reshuffling at Lucasfilm comes reports that the Official "Star Wars"/Lucasfilm Fan Club is being disbanded.

Not true, alleged Lucasfilm senior vp Sidney Ganis.

He admitted that fan-club staffers have been among those people laid off by Lucasfilm. But, he stressed, "someone" will continue the club (biggest in the world, with more than 100,000 members).

Will that "someone" work in-house (per the exiting staffers)? "I don't know."

LOS ANGELES TIMES/CALENDAR

DATE: 03/03/85 BY: [illegible]

NO NEWS IS MAYBE NO NEWS

A friend of Outtakes reports seeing sketches of preliminary special effects work for the next "Star Wars" film. That would be the first episode of the nine-part series, as conceived by George Lucas. (Recall that the initial trilogy comprised parts four through six.)

Lucas has long said that the first trilogy would set up the second, which in turn sets up the third, etc. Which got us to wondering . . . what were Darth Vader and Obi-Wan Kenobi like when they were young? When did they encounter Yoda? How did they discover the Force?

NANCY GRAMAN



So we put in a phone call to Marin County's Skywalker Ranch, home to Lucasfilm. The publicist was skeptical: "I haven't heard anything about this. I'll have to do some checking."

Two days later she called with a two-word reply: "No comment." Then she laughed.

—From Pat H. Broske

The changes have to do with "us concentrating on film production and streamlining the business."

He added: "But the fan club exists and will continue to exist—at least in the foreseeable future. Through thick and thin, we will remain loyal in our way to our fans."

Speaking of departures, Ganis also is exiting. On Tuesday, he begins work at Paramount as head of worldwide marketing. George Lucas is said to be staying aboard Lucasfilm.

—From Pat H. Broske

SUPER FAN

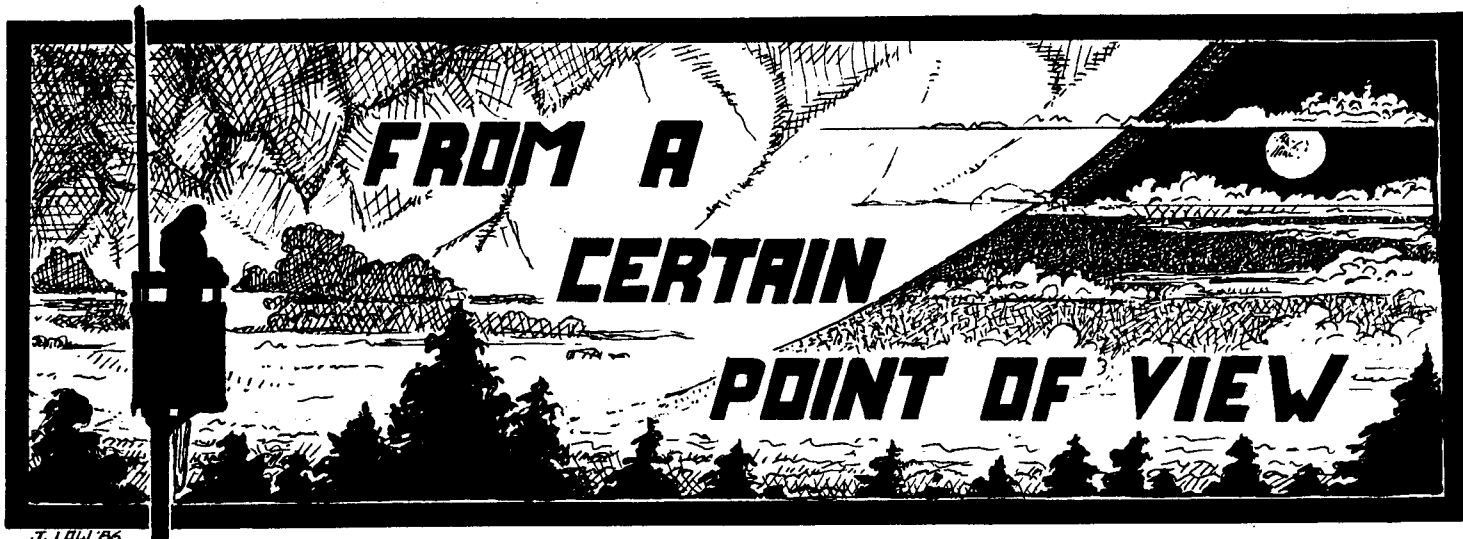
"Thank you for nominating 'Witness' as one of the best pictures of 1985."

The Hollywood Reporter ad began like another piece of studio Oscar puffery. But the author was actually self-described "Glendale Moviegoer" Keith B. Fahey.

Fahey took out the \$535 ad "because I knew I would forever regret it if I failed to act." But he owned up to a bit of self-aggrandizing as well: A word processor by profession (who did some temporary work last year at Paramount, "Witness's" studio), he's also a closet fiction writer, hoping an agent might take notice.

No such luck yet. But "Witness" producer Ed Feldman and co-writer William Kelley both called Fahey to say thanks.

—From Steven Smith



Maggie Nowakowska
2330 Federal Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102

April 1, 1986

The Liz Sharpe article was a nice piece to chew on. One ingredient in the pie seems to be missing, tho: ol' Palpatine himself. I feel that his uncontrolled, unoverseen use of the Force is a factor that can't be ignored in the fate of the Jedi and the Republic. Did those malcontents Liz identified grab a hold of this non-Jedi power-user, or did Palpatine, in his ambition, spot their unhappiness and use it for his own gain? It seems to me that in most of the discussions of SW politics, the Jedi-like powers of the Emperor are ignored. Perhaps this is because, in using Terran models, we fall short of any local examples of someone with that sort of paranormal power ending up in charge of any state, let alone a major power in the world. Even our more influential rulers/conquerors/madmen had only the magic of charisma to harness their followers. Palpatine has manipulation of the sort we saw demonstrated on Tatooine when Kenobi advises the stormtrooper of his party's unimportance; Palpatine has persuasion abilities a tad bit more impressive than thumb screws and bloody pain (his little blue zap game with Luke could be described as a paranormal version of electric wires run up choice parts of a person's body.); Palpatine is a man beyond our experience, just as the Jedi are beyond our experience. Still, if even because of that ignorance we really may not be able to speculate solid scenarios, I think we ought to always mention that wild card, that aspect we can't measure, when making political statements. Just as it is sometimes difficult to understand the power of religion in our western society only a few hundred years ago, or the thorough way capitalistic/communistic assumptions affect the everyday life of people today, it is probably impossible to really understand how the people of the SW universe view the options of their life. The Jedi were real for thousands of years; the Emperor with his Jedi-like powers is real for the Imperial peoples.

Lin Ward asked about the possibility of SW's clones being totally war-oriented because of upbringing. I suspect that is a probability, and suggest CJ Cherryh's Downbelow Station Universe books (DOWNBELOW STATION; 40,000 ON GEHENNA; MERCHANTER'S LUCK) for a fascinating look at what she called "azi clones" and how their tapes, describing proper behavior, beliefs, skills, become their fami-

lies, their honor, their lives, their limitations.

Sally Smith: Yep, it sure does seem that Ford is branching out with his appearance on "The Preservation Tango" on Jimmy Buffet's LAST MANGO IN PARIS album! We also noticed that the title song seems to be about Indiana Jones himself, albeit in Indy's retirement years (just as "The Preservation Tango" seems to describe perfectly a situation that Indy would love to get involved in).

Mary Keever: We were also pleasantly surprised by the second Ewoks movie. Not having planned to watch it, let alone tape it, we saw the show only because there was nothing else to watch while we sat around playing cribbage one Sunday night. If I had a 5-year-old daughter, I would let her watch it as many times as she liked. Finally, a non-hysterical little girl heroine!

Lin Ward: Our friend Jim Hill has had a Washington State license plate with OBI WAN on it since 1979; his car, a Sirocco with black trim below the trunk edge, also has the words, THE FORCE WILL BE WITH YOU...ALWAYS on either side of the plate in white letters. Jim's had a lot of people stop him and ask to take a picture of the car--especially when he's been in his Kenobi costume. There is also a local Mercedes Benz (or is it a BMW?) with JEDI 1; we're looking for 2!

Chris Callahan: I don't hold out much hope for honestly representative SF book covers, not so long as demographics point to a large young male majority audience for SF (and so long as so many of the artists are male, although Rowenna always make my teeth gnash with her ridiculous females). Jessica Salmonson, a local pro writer and fairly militant, tells a story about one of her book covers when she specifically indicated no ratty females on the cover, the editor promised, then had to scramble for an excuse when the publisher insisted on using art the artist provided, no matter that it was the standard female in metal G-string in a come-hither pose.

I have to admit that sometimes I feel as isolated in my liking for SF in media fandom as I did staring at all those magazines with their covers that insinuated MEN-ONLY in the 50's. In Trek fandom, you'd be laughed out of the letterzine (or worse, scorned) for putting the SF, the trek to the stars aspect of the program, ahead of the characterization; ghodforbid you should suggest that the Holy Trio weren't the end-all and be-all of the series. I truly feel that the presentation of the mechanicals in SW is as important as many of the character aspects fandom discusses endlessly. The current exploration of droid status is one reflection of that importance; also of note is the feeling

of comfort with high-tech that SW assumes. I remember reading an article in, I think MOTHER JONES, back in '77, wherein an author normally only slightly paranoid about high tech/robots found himself feeling as comfortable with C3PO and R2D2 as he did with his telephone; the author then reflected that Lucas was one of the first people, after years and years of advanced tech machinery being presented as either gods or The Enemy, to assume that we will be as comfortable with our future tools as we are with our current tools. That Lucas was the first to recognize that human use of its tools in the future will be just as casual and careless and common as today. That the future is already here.

A number of people have spoken to the question of how Luke was able to perform Forcefully that which had not been taught. I'd like to agree with those who suggest that extrapolation is not so extraordinary. Luke is ignorant in ANH, but he is not stupid; he's an excellent pilot, and capable of thinking on his feet. He's seen Kenobi manipulate stormtroopers; a lightsaber in the snow is less complicated a challenge. And, once with the Alliance where talk would be more free than on a farm where the adults are doing their best to keep a kid innocent of such matters, I imagine Luke heard plenty of stories of what Jedi could do. Learning to use one's Forceful powers may well be like learning to really manipulate a computer (as opposed to merely pushing buttons): given the basic knowledge that A, B and C are possible, the subtleties of A, B and C are only truly learned and absorbed on your own through experimentation, practice, extrapolation and ever more practice.

Mickey Malkin: Your comments on the BNF phenomena are appropriate. I think trouble arises when BNF is taken as a complimentary status rather than simply a descriptive one. Anyone who is mentioned a lot in fannish circles is a Big Name Fan, no matter whether those mentions are in the realm of "isn't s/he a great writer/artist/person?", or, more like "Have you heard about the crazy letter/antic so-and-so came up with this time?"

Also, a BNF can exist solely in the minds and psychic experience of those who talk about her; the real person may be totally ignorant of such status. For example, my name is known to a lot of fans because a lot of fans have read my stories, but I don't go to that many cons, and am isolated socially on the Northwest Coast. Yet I have been amazed at reports of things I have said to, and done with, people I've never met, not even in letterzines. Now I can put my feet in my mouth as quickly as anyone, can be as pig-headed as any fan; I really don't need a "BNF Maggie Nowakowska" out there somewhere complicating matters for me. A corollary to this phenomenon is the fan who thinks that someone's BNF status means she has the right to access that BNF anytime she wants to, and that that BNF has an obligation to "perform" for those who have decided they are fans of the BNF. Somewhere along the way the pleasantries of "BNF's" recognizing (for example) the way their notoriety can help mitigate the awkwardness of neos has turned into an obligation of the BNF to welcome all to her circle of friends or to risk damnation if she doesn't. This is not to say that there are not snippy people who discover their BNF status and run with it as far as they can (and then some!); but I have seen too many people castigated for simply not meeting another fan's expectations of them.

And perhaps the people who give the term its worst connotations are those who desperately want

to be BNFs, always coming across as obnoxious attention-getters, never understanding that the acquisition of such a term depends not on them, but on fandom at large. Self-aggrandizement is seldom attractive.

In a related area, I agree with Tim Blaes' distrust of the phrase "personal attack." Criticism, even the sharp kind, is not necessarily insult. Thinking another person's ideas are stupid may be unmannerly to state outloud, but such is not an attack. It is simply an opinion. Claiming that a person knowingly misrepresents herself or others' speech/behavior; using ad hominum reasoning to undermine another's arguments; calling names, and such, fit much more easily under the PA heading. By my lights, when the only wealth a person truly owns is his or her good name, claiming PA is similar to suing for libel; it is a tactic that should be considered long and hard before use. Sometimes it seems that fandom (all of them) is filled with people with so little sense of self-worth and confidence that just claiming to prefer a different character/author/work of art is tantamount to insulting the person addressed.

Tim also brought up the difference between Ford's scripted dialogue in TESB's carbon freezing scene and the ad libbed line. I am one who really wishes Ford had read his proper dialogue. Although I also like the "I know" phrase (for reasons I have gone into a number of times in other letterzines), I believe the "You remember that..." phrase is not only in perfect characterization for Han, but also rings of hope for Leia and for the viewer. I do like the image of Han bravely going to probable death, but I also love the image of Han Solo determined to conquer no matter the obstacle he must face. It's a saucy phrase, and from a scripting point of view, I think it fits much better with what Lucas wanted to do in his trilogy. It's also a rowdy phrase, full of sensual promise, which I also have no complaints about!

I vote with the people who think Vader/Anakin did not know Leia was the sister Luke referred to. Luke's mind, to me, seems to be mostly on the family aspect of the relationship; I can easily believe that, sensing Leia's danger on Endor, Luke thought in terms of losing his newly found sister, rather than losing Leia. It's also possible that thought communication is not so specific unless special effort is made. When I think of my brother, I tend to think "he who is related to me, who shared my childhood experiences, etc." rather than think "David, my brother who is...etc." And once Vader glommed onto the notion of another child, I think Luke would strive to shield the reality of identity. Afterwards, Anakin would remember the sister reference in terms of "his child". Leia's identity is important to us because we already know who she is; at this late stage of the game, Anakin's attention appears to be on the future, on his image with posterity.

As for how Vader couldn't have known about Leia, I like the scene in Ellen Randolph's story, "Parvenue for a Princess" (GUARDIAN 7), where Obi-Wan deliberately places blocks in the unborn Leia's brain that will keep her sheltered from discovery.

Regarding the debate over just what were Yoda and Obi-Wan up to with their handling of Luke, it seems to me that trying to discover the "one way" Kenobi and Yoda thought discounts their flexibility. Not that dissecting what happened isn't fun, it is; but I suspect that they knew there was no one good way to handle the mess; that these Jedi had lots of

possible behaviors worked out for the difficult situation they found themselves and the galaxy in; that they changed and adapted and sometimes even reversed their ideas as the situation developed. I further suspect that the question of just when Luke should be told about Vader was an ongoing topic of discussion between them. Decision making, particularly on the levels of people management, battle and education, are always fluid; to come up with one set idea and stick with it is a recipe for disaster.

This brings up Pat Easley's question about Ben's evasive expression when he tells Luke the story in ANH. I think that image was one of the first things that really stayed with me regarding Kenobi's personality and his place in the saga, way back in '77 when I first saw SW. Obi-Wan's behavior contradicted the cliches that usually governed such disclosures; one of our first questions in the local group was, What's really going on here? What is he not telling the boy? Perhaps that's why I never bought the Kenobi-as-saint line, nor was terribly surprised when the simple story of a murdered father turned complicated. We've been able to do a trick on our VCR, freezing frame during that scene so that Luke's face is fading in as Kenobi's fades out, both on the screen at once, with exactly the same thoughtful, questioning look, one person looking to the future with the question, "Why?", the other looking to the past with the same "Why?".

Now, about the "lie" of Kenobi's. I have to admit I don't understand all the vitriol over Kenobi's version of what happened. Why all the obsession with lying as an utter damnation of Kenobi's character, as a measure of total untrustworthiness. Are we all so innocent of lies? Do we really think that a lie so marks a person? That self-righteousness that seems, to me, to permeate this discussion is incredible. People lie all the time and with far less reason; it sometimes seems to me that what many fans are really furious with Kenobi for is his pointing out a painful reality--that most of the "truths" we hold most dear are simply reflections of our point of view.

I am not arguing with assessments of Kenobi's wisdom/morality/judgment in handling the mess he made of training Anakin Skywalker. I am simply asking why an act that can easily be judged kind considering the sort of man Luke's father had turned into, that is possibly one of the most constantly replicated "sins" by most every human all through his/her life, should be used as a bludgeon against Kenobi? Or is fandom full of people who still haven't come to terms with the notion that mom and dad sometimes didn't tell them all the truth?

Yes, that's a bit catty. But I am honestly puzzled.

As for few people's favorite uncle, Marlene Karkoska asks why Owen Lars takes the risk of Luke's upbringing? If we go by the novelization, where Owen is Obi-Wan's brother, any number of reasons can be argued: family connections, simple humanitarian reasons, Kenobi stubbornness; I like to salt that combination liberally with a desire to succeed where his brother failed. (On the same subject, I like Ellen Randolph's development in A NEW CHALLENGE that has Owen taking Beru's last name, Lars.) I also think Sandi Jones' suggestion that Lars was so difficult about Luke's application to the Academy because Owen was trying to protect Luke is a good one. As for why the Skywalker name was kept, I have no imaginative ideas. I suspect that it merely reflects the Terran culture of the filmmakers

who, like so many other people, male and female, never stop to think about the assumption that a son must carry his father's name. When so many women think nothing of taking on another family's name, I can't condemn Lucas for not questioning the convention. Names are entirely too potent magic; secondary characters can change them, so can daughters, but heaven forbid the hero should--

I just had a thought--the only time we hear Luke's full name is when he bursts in on Leia in detention. It just may be possible that Luke didn't use his name socially on Tatooine out of respect for his foster parents, but that he did know it for use when he began his own life. That coming conflict between names could be another reason why Owen keeps putting off Luke's application to the Academy--he'd have to explain why he wanted Luke to use a name other than Skywalker in a situation that should belong to Luke and Luke's future, not to his past on Tatooine.

Sandi Jones: I have to disagree with the criticism implied by saying that Lucas simply wanted to "forget about characterization" in the SW saga. Part of what makes SW so appealing is its ability to adapt to thousands and thousands of individual personalities and world-views. If the movies had been as deeply characterized as some fans want, their appeal would have been limited to those people who agreed with that particular interpretation of the characters. As the movies are now, they allow an incredible amount of diversity in interpretation. SW is a modern-age fairy tale, a story that is internalized as fairy tales are. The incredible diversity, the often contrariness, of fan-lit Han Solos, each true to the author's vision of SW, is a measure of how Lucas succeeded in his goal. My Han is true for me; yours is true for you. This can be only if Han's character is originally presented as broadly as possible. A good example of problems that could arise is the demand for a wedding at the end of JEDI; I think my image of SW Han would have been totally destroyed if that convention had been tagged to the man. As it stands, those who want a wedding can imagine one; I can picture, instead, a relationship for Han and Leia that is less traditional, one that answers the needs I have.

Isn't Luke's immaturity in ANH representative of everyone's immaturity when young? I remember being hurt by all the smart remarks fans made about Luke's behavior in ANH because I looked at that Luke and saw myself when I was Luke's age; I didn't like being laughed at when I was twenty and I didn't like discovering that people who were old enough to have discovered compassion still could be unmerciful. Sure, he'd probably cringe a bit to see himself then; I do when I think of my own awkwardness. But Luke did outgrow his immaturity; I can't see him being bothered by it anymore than I believe today that there is dishonor in immaturity at that age. To continue what must be my "puzzlement" LoC, I was honestly surprised that fans, who are often self-possessed awkward-ites in the world, didn't embrace Luke and his growing confidence as one of their own.

To close, I'll address Jeanine Hennig's question about creative "ownership" of characters. (Jenni, this is a subject that I feel quite strongly about and have strong words to say those feelings with. Please accept that this tirade is not directed at you. Blessed be!)

I come down hard on the side of ultimate creator rights in how his/her creations are presented. Although I feel that the range of interpretation of

characters is wide enough to embrace a fandom determined to create its own fiction, I do think that a creator has the right to say what a character would not do or be. It is not enough, for me, to say, well, once someone changes the character's behavior that new character is not my character; in etymology, there is a saying, bad drives out the good, to indicate how one meaning of a word can overwhelm an established meaning, narrowing, sometimes distorting the original word's meaning. The word "mistress" is a common example. It started out meaning a married woman, a woman in charge (like a master), and has come to mean an unmarried female lover supported by a male. A writer's creations are her legacy. I believe she has the right to determine what that legacy, however small, however limited in awareness, will be.

Jenni, you are correct when you quote all the various pictures of Han drawn by fans. All are legitimate because Lucas has sketched a broad canvas, designed to have the colors filled in by his audience. But I believe he has the right to say what Han isn't in an effort to hold true to his vision, to his legacy. For example: I have a female character who I have seen described in ways that vary from a nut case to an admirable heroine (I don't think she's a nut case, but then I also have my doubt about her admirable status!). I don't mind these various representations, but if someone started presenting her as a traditional terran female, if someone started trying to present her as 180 out from what she is, I would object loudly. Why? Because (1) she is my creation, brought to life by me and as a certain character, AND is my legacy, a representative of my talent. I have the right to say what she is not. (2) Because there are some aspects of a character that define that character in such a way that to change it is to change the character irrevocably, and if that changed character comes to be accepted as the originally created character, then the original creation has been damaged. And (3) because the artist has a duty to every other dreamer in human history to fight the notion that anything and everything is for sale.

There is a line between interpretation and distortion. It is not rigid; it may not even stay in the same place. But so long as the creator is alive, I believe she should fight for the integrity of her/his creation. If I create a character who believes in one, personal, omnipotent god and someone changes that character into an atheist, and if the audience comes to accept the second presentation as real, I have lost one of my children. Again, this is not to damn interpretation. This is to ask that a creator's intention, the spirit of the piece, be respected; that people honor the labor, love, sweat, and hope for communication that go into the creation of a story, a piece of art, of music; and that people recognize that art is part of the human creator's soul, part of her perception of truth, however mundane, homey or innocent.

Some people argue that they have paid the artist by buying the book, attending the movie, play, whatever, and that therefore they can do what they want with their impressions. I would argue that what they have done is not buy the offered art, but rather have paid rent for its presentation/performance. I firmly believe that somethings cannot be sold, that when people insist that they can do anything at all they want with a character, they are implying that the creator is willing to prostitute her art. I have written for hire, for advertising; I know what

kind of contract I made then. It is not the same as the contract I enter when I write a story.

It can also be said that what is of the spirit cannot be owned. I would agree, but I would also add that neither should it be misrepresented, and that the "translator" of a particular slice of that spirit is the appropriate guardian of the art. Her judgement should be accepted.

Sigh. This had better be all, folks. I'm over my self-imposed limit of six pages for sure (but I double spaced this time, I did, instead of cheating at space and a half; does that count?! Have a good time at MediaWest everyone, and at Conzineience; wish I were with you!

Cut Scenes

Carolyn Cooper
PO Box 66244
Houston, TX 77266

March 30, 1986

First, I'd like to publically say "thank you" to Dani Lane for all her hard work and support on FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #2. Considering how many zine editors keep her busy, she should get a fandom medal of honor! ((Ed: I second the motion! Last year at MediaWest, a group of us zine eds voted her our own private Fan Q for illoing over and above the call of duty!))

Regarding Maureen Garrett and the NASFiC panel. Unfortunately, the panel was neither video or audio taped; the facilities weren't available and many SF convention panelists will no longer allow themselves to be taped. Ms. Garrett did NOT say STAR WARS was in pre-production. As a matter of fact, Ms. Garrett insisted it would be at least 3 years before another SW trilogy went into pre-production. However, various fans discussed, on other panels, the myriad of reports and indicators that Lucasfilm is indeed gearing up for another SW trilogy and the probability of it being the first three episodes.

One last thing, regarding Luke's learning to "call" his lightsaber into his hand without Ben's training him--not so. This was one of the bits in the original release of EMPIRE later cut for time purposes. When Luke is hanging in the wampah cave, Ben's voice tells him to stop straining to reach it and to relax and envision it in his hand. The whole process took a minute or two. Other scenes cut from the original release of the films and later cut from re-release and video:

In STAR WARS:

(1) Han and Chewie chased by stormtroopers. The lead stormtrooper shouts into the comlink, "Close the blast doors! Close the blast doors!" The doors start closing but Chewie, then Han slip through cutting off the stormtroopers, now shouting, "Open the blast doors! Open the blast doors!" (Now the last bit is all you see.) ((Ed again: In the original version of SW that we saw in the theater here in Dallas, the "close" line was cut and we didn't realize anything was missing. Then years later we came into the possession of an early black market copy and the line was there! Now, in our commercial copy, the line is missing again!))

(2) The first two attempts by Luke Skywalker to hook his line for the swing with Leia.

In EMPIRE:

(1) See above.

(2) The probe droid originally lands and buries itself in the snow for the night.

(3) Luke thrashes in the water in the medic scene, mumbling "Dagobah. Yoda" before the bacta solution is put in and Han and Leia discuss not knowing what it means.

(4) Luke goes through more climbing, tumbling and training before entering the tree scene.

I know there are a few more, but I'd have to check my notes. However, I agree that once he learned all the fundamentals from Yoda, he was capable of continuing his training on his own.

Gotta fly. The time warp's got me.

Coming Events

Linda Kerry
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Sandown, NH 03873

March 27, 1986

Greetings, all!

I had wondered what the response would be from fans re the CHALLENGER disaster. There are a lot of caring people out there, and it is encouraging to see! You folks might be interested to know that C. J. Cherryh and Janet Morris are trying to get together \$36,000 to take out an ad in the NEW YORK TIMES supporting the space program. While I don't think that an ad (especially one that expensive--I think that the money would be better spent helping the victims' families and setting up trust funds, etc.) is going to do much in affecting the attitudes of John Q. Public about the space program, I do think that it is a nice show of solidarity among book publishers, writers and others within the sf community. Any money raised over and above the amount needed for the ad will be donated to funds set up for the surviving children of the shuttle's crew. Those wishing to donate should send their money to: C. J. Cherryh, 1901 Bella Vista, Edmond, OK 73034.

1986 hasn't started off to be a very good year in sf circles, has it? In this first quarter, we have lost not only the shuttle crew, but also Frank Herbert and editor Judy-Lynn Del Rey. (Incidentally, she bought the novel STAR WARS a year before the film came out...) They will all be missed. ((Ed: Author L. Ron Hubbard also passed away recently.))

I attended Boskone in February--Boskone is the huge annual convention put on by the New England Science Fiction Association. The con is mostly mainstream sf programming--they do have some movies, though not as many and not of the quality I would like to see most. (I did finally get to see SILENT RUNNING, though.) I was pleased to see that despite

NESFA's general disdain of media fandom, the single largest audience of any panel or program was gathered to watch the Lucasfilm presentation. After technical difficulties at Saturday's presentation (the slide projector operator managed to drop an entire tray of slides, and the film projector for the LABYRINTH teaser had no sound--Maureen Garrett was...well, steamed is putting it very mildly!), the presentation was finally given in its complete form on Sunday afternoon.

The first part of the presentation was about Lucasfilm, Ltd.--slides of artwork, kid's letters to Lucas, funny t-shirts, pictures of Skywalker Ranch, etc. The second part of the slide show dealt with the new projects GL is working on for the summer: HOWARD THE DUCK (oh, please!) and the Henson film, LABYRINTH, with David Bowie. *sigh* Slim pickings, indeed. Then the program was turned over to a question and answer period. Now, perhaps Maureen was having a bad day, was upset by the previous afternoon's fiasco or was suffering any number of human ailments, but she gave off the impression that she doesn't even like fans, and was bored to tears with SW questions. She didn't ignore them per se, just played around then, hedging and dodging. Toying with us! I'll tell you, I was ready to deck her, or walk out in disgust before she was done. And she is supposed to be the fan liaison? I noticed in #11 that Linda Deneroff reported that GL had laid off the entire SW fan club division, and I too wonder what this means for the fans. If courteous quiet-spoken fen are made to feel as though they had just crawled out from under a rock by the very person who is supposed to represent LFL to them, one wonders at the lack of respect given us as people by the fellow that we, as fans, made successful.

Sorry, didn't mean to rant! I was just upset by the whole deal! The rest of the programming was wonderful, though, got to meet some really nice people and not just a few authors! On to the letters...

Mary Keever: The "Slow Boat to Bespin" flap happened shortly after I discovered SW fandom. Apparently, LFL took offense at the story and threatened to shut down fandom. There was a lot of name-calling and bally hoo about the now famous LFL guidelines, but as you can see, fandom is alive and thriving!

Maggie Nowakowska: The young fellow on the Hardy Boys show was Parker Stevenson--a fine actor (and not too hard on the eyes, either!).

Chris Callahan: As a Waldenbooks manager, I try to get every sf book that comes out for my store (who says that rank doesn't have its privileges?), so I see about everything in print--and I tend to agree with you--the covers seem to be sliding back into the Frazetta/Boris mode. Unfortunately, these covers hide some really great books! Case in point: Melisa Michaels' SKYRIDER series (SKIRMISH, FIRST BATTLE and LAST WAR). The first two had rather regrettable covers--but don't let them fool you! This is really good stuff! I highly recommend this series--and the best thing is I have just found out that Melisa has sold books 4 and 5 in the series!

Does anyone know anything about a zine called ECHO SEVEN? I sent the editor my check late last summer and it's been cashed and I still haven't gotten my zine! Has anyone else had this problem? Is the zine actually available somewhere? Help!

Well, I haven't commented on everything I wanted, but I don't want to take up more than my share of space, so--until #12, fly casual!

Carole Regine
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April 7, 1986

Cheree: Putting that poem, "High Flight" on SE's cover was a beautiful tribute to the crew of the CHALLENGER, and thanks for reprinting those articles from THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD. Also, I liked the SOUTHERN ENCLAVE masthead by Judy Low and the piece she did for "Mos Eisley Marketplace." Classy. ((Ed: This issue also sees new mastheads for the "Reviewing the Fleet" section and for the LoC section itself! A hearty cheer for Judy!))

Matthew Whitney: Glad to know I'm not all alone in the Universe. I don't recall seeing Ian McDiarmid in other films (I missed DRAGONSLAYER), but his performance in ROTJ made a big and very favorable impression on me. I loved his day-to-night sudden changes of facial expressions--turning that phoney-benevolent smile into a look of pure contempt for Luke and his "pitiful little band" of rebels. McDiarmid's Palpatine was a vast improvement over that lackluster holo image that Vader knelt before in TESB.

Pat Easley: Speaking of facial expressions, yes, I did notice the guilt in Ben's averted gaze as he lied to Luke about Anakin. Also noticed his peculiar look when Luke said, "I want to come with you to Alderaan...and become a Jedi like my father." (Emphasis mine) It's fun to wonder what might've gone through Ben's mind in these scenes, but reality keeps tossing cold water on the fun. I doubt that Alec Guinness, who made those expressions, knew any more than the audience knew about the identity of Luke's father. Still...while watching the Saga, I'd rather speculate on a character's thoughts than an actor's. About Darth Vader in TESB... Yes, I believe Vader had feelings for his son in that film, and like you, I believe that Vader was aware of those feelings. When the Emperor suggests that Luke is a threat, Vader quickly responds with, "He's just a boy." His remark seemed to echo Kenobi's protective insult in the cantina, "This little one's not worth the effort." About the book, I AM LEG-
END... That's one of the very few vampire stories I've found entertaining. I wish I could come up with more about that "older and shrunken order" that I suggested pre-dates the Jedi. Kenobi's remark (in the ANH novelization) just gave me some vague mental images of long, long ago--Force users persecuted by the ignorant, and driven to use the Dark Side for self protection. When I read that line in the novelization, I immediately thought of Earth-style persecution of "witches"--a subject I know very little about. Maybe someone more knowledgeable in this area will tell us, in a story, what Kenobi was talking about. By the way, the fan stories I referred to last ish, while theorizing on this, were: "Quisling" by Laymon & Goldstein (KESSEL RUN 2) and several Vader stories, in various zines, by Carol Hines-Stroede. About Anakin's fall... Loved your speculation that Ben might've cast him out before he'd become a hopeless case. Perhaps Anakin had been falling by degrees and Ben knew neither how to stop him nor at what point Anakin might still be saved. Still, I can't bring myself to haul out the cat o' ninetails for ol' Ben. (I've done that enough in previous letters.) Anakin was Ben's prize student and his friend; Ben must've been very sure, however wrong he might've been, that Anakin couldn't be saved from the Dark Side.

And I certainly wouldn't want to be put in the position Ben had been in--having to choose between a friend's life and the welfare of others. Not knowing the "Lucasfilm Facts", I tend to see both Anakin and Ben Kenobi as victims of a tragedy where "right" and "wrong" were very hard to define.

Michelle Malkin: Interesting thought that Yoda couldn't see Luke's role in future Galactic history. Perhaps the whole Skywalker line possessed some quality (like Siona Atreides in GOD EMPEROR OF DUNE) that prevented Yoda's seeing their activities in future vision. Your paralleling Dagobah with Brigadoon has given me a fanciful thought. ("Da-go-BAH, Da-go-BAH, bloomin' under murky skies!") What if Yoda had been around much longer than 900 years? What if he'd been born before the 20,000 year old Jedi order and Republic, only appearing on this plane of existence now and then, and like the townsfolk of Brigadoon, only aging as long as that appearance lasted? Well, I said the idea was fanciful...but it sure does suggest possibilities for filksongs!

Carolyn Colledge: Congratulations on your pro-novel! What's the title? ((Ed: Unfortunately, the deal for the sale of Carolyn's novel, "No Escape", fell through. However, she is currently contacting other publishers. Best of luck to you, Carolyn!)) I have "right!" scrawled beside your comments re Luke's lack of military experience in ANH. Fresh off the sandfarm, it's very likely that Luke never gave thought to the fact that he was leaving an all-important droid unprotected as he went to rescue Leia. Han, who probably did know better, should've explained the nasty facts of war, rather than letting the smell of money lure him to follow Luke...but I can't damn Solo for this. He wasn't part of the Rebellion, he didn't pretend to care about it, and he owed the Alliance nothing. In fact, the Alliance owed Han--15,000 credits. At that point, I think Han was just a very smart survivor, in a tight spot, trying to make the best of an unexpectedly bad turn of events. That's what fascinated me about Han in ANH. He was a tough, cynical man thrust into circumstance that--in the end--brought out an idealism he'd probably left for dead on some rimworld, long ago. But the important point is, that idealism wasn't dead, and I don't think anyone could've revived it against Han's will. One wonders what events in Han's life psychologically prepared him to take that last-minute heroic action at the end of ANH. About Pat Nussman's "Love's Mysteries" (KESSEL RUN #2)... Yes, that was an excellent story. I think of this tale as "the way it must've happened."

Sally Smith: I had to laugh when you qualified your statements about Han by reminding everyone that your remarks were intended as compliments. I've often found myself doing the same thing, both in fandom and outside. Always best to know another's standard of measure before assuming you've been insulted.

Sally Syrjala: Although I have a different view of Vader, I'd love to see some fiction based on that "double agent" idea. That's worth a whole series of Vader stories, pre-ANH through ROTJ. As for Vader's good deeds on screen, I think some of his actions are evidence that he had his own brand of honor and his own standards of decency.

Jeanine Hennig: As I was saying, last ish, the best articles make me think of things I wouldn't have thought of on my own... Black jock straps for Jedi and phallic lightsabers, eh? Do you think the appearance, size, strength, etc., of a saber is any

indication of...well, never mind. Loud applause for your defense of everyone's right to see SW characters in his/her own way. Awhile back, I read a LoC that criticized an author for sending her Jedi Knights to a brothel. The critic seemed to feel that this wasn't very believable. I sat there slapping my head and saying, "But that was such a wonderfully realistic touch! How can anyone say..." Believable is often in the eyes of the beholder.

Vonnie Fleming: In light of Jenni's latest article, yes, I can imagine Vader inviting some lucky lady to see his lightsaber collection. Lucky, indeed. I believe Vader was a fully-trained Jedi (or damned close to Graduation Day) when he fell to the Dark Side, but it's hard to tell from dialogue in the films. Ben refers to Anakin as "a young Jedi" and Luke (as well as Yoda) uses "Jedi" in reference to fully-trained knights, yet other lines contradict this: Ben calls Anakin/Darth "a pupil" and Vader says he was "a learner" when he'd left Kenobi and the Knighthood. Perhaps Anakin had been fully trained but hadn't yet undergone some crucial test. Re Yoda's gruff manner with Luke... Irritating it was, but given Yoda's sterling character, I think of his gruffness as his one redeeming flaw! Hey, this business of plugging other folks' stories/zines is a good idea. Your comments about a story in SITH YEARBOOK (and Susan Henderson's remarks about Imperial characters) prompted me to send for that zine.

Lin S. Ward: Liked your thought that Luke's vision of Bespin might've been a moral test. Yoda didn't seem to feel that Luke made the right choice (going to help Han and Leia), but does Yoda's belief that a decision is wrong make it wrong? Yoda is the highest level Jedi Master that we've seen, but does this make him the Final Authority among Jedi or the wisest being in the SW universe?

Liz Sharpe: Very much enjoyed your Clones article, especially the parts about the Jedi and the average citizen's view of that Order, but I'm confused about the scientific side of your article. Must a clone look exactly like the individual who donated cells to form him? In a LoC to another zine, Susan Matthews gave an explanation for why this is not necessarily so. I don't know enough about this subject to agree or disagree with either of you, but I'd like to see more on this from those better informed on this than I am.

Marlene Karkoska: About Luke's being allowed to keep his surname... Yes, that's always puzzled me, too--just as it's always puzzled me that Kenobi kept his surname and (rather uselessly, I'd say!) changed only his given name. Perhaps "Skywalker" and "Kenobi" are very common names in the SW universe. I imagine long columns of Kenobis and Skywalkers in some immense interstellar comlink directory... Yoda, on his dying breath, gasped: "There is...another...Skywalker." Perhaps Luke's line should've been: "Sure, but which one?"



Mary Keever
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April 16, 1986

Hello! Hope everyone is doing fine. Spring is here. Hurrah!

I really appreciated the poem on the cover of SE#11. The space shuttle tragedy was such a sad event that seemed to touch all of America. Thanks, Cheree.

Love the new mastheads. Three cheers for Judith!

Congrats to Liz Sharpe on a very fine, well-thought article. It was great. Like being in an enjoyable history lesson with a good teacher. I especially agree with you on "compromise."

Jeanine Hennig: Loved your "Private Life..." Just one question, tho; why does Luke refer to a certain part of his body as his "sabre of love"??!

As to the "Hot Flash": In the most recent issue of BANTHA TRACKS, Maureen Garrett steps down as Director of the fan club. There is no reason given. Also, in the May STARLOG, there is a new ad for the SW/LFFC. The ad seems to stress LF more than SW.

Linda Deneroff: I think one direction SE could go in (which is mentioned a few times in this ish) is feedback on stories, authors and artists.

Michelle Malkin: Liked your comments on the triad idea. It seem to be popping up a lot lately. Jeanine Hennig's last chapter of "Catalyst!" (and oh WHAT a triad it was) and in "Dayna's Story" of the cartoon ROBOTECH. (Any ROBOTECH fans out there?)

Matthew Whitney: Your comments about SW being looked upon as "kiddish" by the male populace are so true. I was reading SE at work yesterday and one of the "young" guys at work asked what I was reading and why I was marking it up. I explained SE and how it related to SW (as he already knew I was a SW fan). He said, "Oh, I used to love STAR WARS and EMPIRE. I had a lot of the books and toys but I've grown up now. It's a kid's thing." I said, "Oh, yeah? How old do you think I am?" His answer: "You're a girl..." Sigh...

Tim Blaes: Three cheers for you! Another NORTH AND SOUTH fan. I was a couch potato that whole week (and soon to be again).

Also, ROCK AND RULE has been on cable this month.

Carol Mularski: Liked what you had to say about mistakes and sins. You choose a sin, a mistake just happens.

Sally Syrjala: Re YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES. Did you also catch the resemblance to ROTJ? Especially the "final confrontation" scene between student and master. It looked like the Darth/Luke sabre duel in the Emperor's throne room.

Kerri Smithline: Enjoyed your thoughts on the Emperor being a clone or android. What a SCARY thought! I've also thought perhaps the Emperor has relatives. An evil grandson or (heh, heh) granddaughter to try to seduce Luke to the Dark.

Carole Regine: Hi! Not again... Okay, okay, so I don't have "proof" that Luke is a virgin. It just seems to fit his character. I would've gladly warmed his chilly bones (and his sabre of love--hee hee!).

I like your idea that Luke and Leia may have been on Dagobah before. Can you picture a fit-to-be-tied Yoda potty training Luke!!

Maggie Nowakowska: The Solo relative on the

Hardy Boys is Parker Stevenson. He was in an Alfred Hitchcock episode this season.

Also enjoyed your comments on power users remaining virgins. (So that's why Luke is...)

Sandi Jones: I had not read DUNE. I thoroughly enjoyed the movie and had no trouble following the story at all.

Bev Clark: Right on! Owen didn't tell Luke the truth about his father and no one seems to care or question it. Shouldn't he be dragged over the coals a bit, too??

Jeanine Hennig: Did you see MH in the new ZZ Top video? Ha! I enjoyed seeing Mark on the tube but was a bit disappointed in "Gather Ye Acorns". It seemed to fall flat.

Yes, as a matter of fact, those Jedi briefs had a little silver "J" on them! Oh, please! Don't get me started on the bionic hand. (Remember, Idicon and that purple thing?! Ho boy!)

Lisa Thomas: Howdy! What rep?! Just kidding! When Jenni and I are through with the bionic hand, we'll send it your way.

Pat Easley: I loved ENEMY MINE. The sets were fantastic. I thought the Drac language was beautiful, so melodic! The story was great! Did you like it?

Is anyone going to Conzineience that wants to split a room? If so, drop me a line.

Cheree, thanks again for another great issue of SE! Till next time...

Force-Visions

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April 16, 1986

A question--could somebody define the attributes of a Force-sensitive, a student Jedi, a full Jedi, and a Jedi master? What subjects does one have to pass to attain each level from the one before?

Lin Ward: Does this mean Tatooine is the pits?

Michelle Malkin: Could Owen's repression of Luke stem from his own lost dreams of glory, possibly as a Jedi? He doesn't want Luke to suffer as he (and Beru?) did. Skywalker is probably a common enough name, like our Smith or Jones, and I really doubt that there is only one Skywalker listed in the galaxial telephone book.

Tim Blaes: How about "Man Lives 37 Years Without Eating"? ((Ed: My favorite is "Unmarried Ex-Nun Pregnant by the Devil.")) As to why DV told the Emperor, Vader reported everything to his master. In the movies, he seemed to be semi-autonomous, and whatever wasn't reported, old Brainburn probably had his ways of finding out.

Carole Regine: The novelization says that Leia's visions of her mother were like a dream. Could Leia (who does have the Force, whether we want her to or not) have had Force-visions during the stressful times of her life? Like after she was told of her adoption? Was Bail Organa married? When she needed or wanted very much to have her mother with her, she could go into a kind of day-dream and "see" her mother that gave her up (prob-

ably not of her own choice) as a beautiful and unhappy lady. Luke doesn't remember anything because Owen kept him too busy to think about anything else. Also, just how much Owen and Beru (were they Luke's real aunt and uncle, or just close friends of either parent?) tell Luke about his mother?

Marlene Karkoska: In answer to your Uncle Owen question--Owen and Anakin and Ben were best buddies at one time, until they all entered the Jedi brotherhood together, and Owen didn't quite make it. (See above answer to Mickey.) It was obvious that Ben could not take in an infant to raise; Owen lived not far away on Tatooine and was married. Maybe they hadn't spoken in many years, but if Ben reminded Owen of their old friendship and worked on the sympathy of Beru...

Linda Deneroff: I think the only great work of literature that has not been compared to the trilogy is the Bible. But give it time.

Sally Syrjala: If Han is Kirk, Luke is Spock, who is McCoy, Leia? Always knew that Vader was a double agent. The only rebel that Vader personally killed (the rest were Imperials) was Captain Antilles (could he have been an Imperial spy?). Vader told Leia, when they were alone and he was supposedly torturing her, that Kenobi was interfering and that he would be forced (no pun, there) to kill him, if there was any further interference from him. Leia was sleeping quite peacefully and none the worse for wear, when Luke burst in on her, and mentioned Kenobi. Her only interest at that point (as evidenced by her excitement at Kenobi's name) was to find Ben and warn him that Vader was coming after her. (She made the hologram before Vader came clean.) And finally the hand-cutting-off was purely an accident. Vader was under terrible duress, and simply miscalculated his slice. He only wanted to knock the saber from his son's hand.

Maggie Nowakowska: Could that young man from the Hardy Boys be Parker Stevenson, who played Frank Hardy?

Jeanine Hennig: May I call you Jenni? Great little article there. Now how about an article or couple of lines on what female Jedi wear under their robes? Any ideas, Tim and Matthew?

Comprehensive Picture

Lin S. Ward
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April 15, 1986

Was fascinated by all the reports of Lucas' operations, and shocked by the lay-off of the Fan Club Staff. Mo Garrett must have been warned, because her resignation was printed in the last BT.

Liz Sharpe's article on the Clone Wars was fascinating. I was particularly struck by her suggestions that the advent of clones could shake the foundations of democracy. Found particularly intriguing her suggestions that other factors might have been that the Jedi lacked a strong leader, that Vader was initially hailed as a savior, and that Luke and Leia might have been separated partly

because of the cloning controversy. If we continue to get articles like this one, along with Jeanine Hennig's and Sandra Necchi's, we'll have a comprehensive picture of the OR without Lucas!

Mary Kever: Loved the picture of you and your "hot date"! I thought the story in BATTLE FOR ENDOR moved rather slowly for adults, but the film was well-produced, with interesting characters, great make-up and special effects, and strong morals.

Michelle Malkin: I want to read that story about how the characters would've developed if ANH had never happened!

Exciting idea that Luke might not even try to reestablish a Jedi order, but instead would work to train all espers. Also liked your thought that Luke was a focal point who kept baffling Yoda and his visions. I'd love to know what Yoda's vision of the future was, what conceptions of it lay beneath his behavior!

Sally Syrjala: Fascinating alternate idea that Vader could've been a spy; what an agonizing position for him! Maybe Yoda could've put him in that insidious position, based on his visions of the future!

"The Force as a reservoir of potential"--beautifully phrased; it fits all the statements in the films!

Kerri Smithline: Palpatine cloning Dark Jedi--it's positively diabolical!! What a great story idea! So, then where did these clones disappear to? Are they still hiding out, lying in time capsules somewhere, just waiting to be found!!! Also, maybe the cryogenic prolongation of life promoted the Emperor's evil, in that he had a few centuries to pick up some bad habits.

Interesting suggestion that Ben might've absorbed Luke's power, so that he never realized it was there...hmm...can the Emperor do that, too?

Carole Regine: Luke said he had "no memory of his mother", but I have wondered why Luke thought Dagobah "felt familiar." If he hadn't been there with his mother, could it have been intended as a hint at genetic memory, as in returning to the beginning of the world, rebirth?

Seems quite possible that Kenobi was a greatly changed man after his confrontation with Vader, and retreat into hiding. There's another gripping story idea!

Marlene Karkoska: Liked your story idea about why Owen would take in Luke. I wonder if Owen (as well as Kenobi) was a greatly changed man after the Clone Wars? Maybe the reason he took in Luke had something to do with his own experiences during the Clone Wars? (Loss of his children, loss of his beliefs, loss of dreams?) Or, maybe he adopted Luke for old times' sake, to honor the people they'd all been before the Holocaust?

I agree with your ideas about Yoda and Ben training Luke and ignoring other Force potential. I have no explanation, unless others with Force talent had so little of it that Yoda and Ben feared the trainees would end up with enough talent to be detectable, but not enough to beat Vader and the Emperor. If the Skywalker family was historically much more talented than other Force-users, it would explain the emphasis on them and Yoda's comment "there is another" (not "there are others"). But then in this scenario, it's hard to explain why Ben, instead of Yoda, tried to train Vader. They must not have been aware of the Skywalkers' great strength until it was too late.

Maggie Nowakowska: Your fandom matrix is terrific, but are you really suggesting that there are

NONFANZINE fans???? Say it isn't so! The idea that sentience has overprinted instinct in Force users is brilliantly simple! Perceptive comment also that power loss might have become associated with marriage/sex, as opposed to the true culprit, puberty.

Carolyn Colledge: Interesting insights on Solo as non-human lover, and reluctance to blow the Death Star because of the innocents lost; I can believe that Luke wasn't seeing "the Big Picture" at that point in his development.

Hmm, maybe Yoda was not normally as brusque as he behaved in EMPIRE; he seemed much more good-natured in JEDI, although it could be attributed to weakness, I suppose. But, in JEDI, he didn't sound at all querulous or feisty.

Wow! What a thought, that Leia was the one who was holding back in TESB...it's, it's...another great vignette idea!

I'd love to read an introduction to stories, where the writers explain how they came by their ideas! I've corresponded with a couple of BNF writers who were kind enough to fill me in on the backgrounds of their "universes"; it was thrilling, stimulating, and so gratifying! The contents of their notebooks were impressively comprehensive, and indicate why a particular story seems so rich and well-thought-out, it's because it's just the tip of the iceberg of ideas. Speaking of whom...

Chris Callahan: The review I read of WIND RIDER was "puke-city". Even FIRES OF AZEROTH, by the intrepid C. J. Cherryh, is undignified with an illo of Morgaine clad in little strips of chain mail. Grrrr! Last night I mentioned this to a male friend; unfortunately, he'd brought over his new SF ENCYCLOPEDIA to show, and spent the evening gleefully pointing out the numerous bookcovers that did not flash naked ladies. He's read a lot of older SF from the 30's and 40's, and told me that prevalent plots were "all wars and rockets." His theory is that women started reading SF when the stories turned more to concepts and characterizations. Any comments?

Jeannie Webster: As to A. C. Crispin's comments on media fiction, I have only a derisive snort to offer. See my previous comments on fan writers!

B. J. Evans: Did Lucas really say he'd get back to SW? Was this recently? I'm afraid the lay-off of the Fan Club staff is an ominous sign, although they haven't been doing much with SW lately, anyway.

Jeanine Hennig: SW tarot is a fabulous idea! Paula Block made about 30 cards for PEGASUS that were so good, I pulled out my tarot board and tried to cast a round. I think I couldn't finish because there weren't enough cards, or something. Anyway, maybe she'd be willing to have some fans use what she'd done, and build from there?

Liz Sharpe: I nominate Tish Wells as "Artist of the Month." Her illos are full of movement, vitality, grace, balance and texture. Her unique style is pleasing and her pieces engrossing.

Pat Easley: One of the actors in an interview said something about how they don't know what the director said to Alec Guinness to get that particular evasive, and yes, I'd call it guilty expression.

All: I just finished listening again to the TESB radio show. I noticed something curious at the end of the program. While Luke seemed confused and disillusioned as he sped away from Cloud City aboard the Falcon, by the time Chewie and Lando were leaving for Tatooine, Luke is bubbling with confidence and good cheer. While Leia expresses concern for Chewie and Lando's welfare, Luke gaily

assures her that they'll be fine. It seems as if he underwent some serious attitude adjustment between the time he confronted Vader and lost his hand, and the time he received his prosthetic hand and saw off Chewie and Lando. I wonder how much time elapsed during this interval? What did he learn, or envision, to revive his optimism?

Hope to see you all at WorldCon!

XWING83

Sally Smith
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April 23, 1986

Hullo again. I'm sneaking some time in at work to write this (yes, I've gotten--*gasp*--a Real Job! Only for 6 weeks, though).

By now, everyone will have hashed and rehashed the CHALLENGER tragedy, so I'll just say I agree with Deke Slayton: "Find what went wrong. Fix it. Fly again." On to happier topics.

"Clones" article: Fascinating, as our favorite Vulcan would say. Also well-written and plausible.

PLOTJ: Whoo! Whoop! Yahoo! Chortle! Bravo! Of course, you all expected me to love that, right? Yea, Jenni.

I've gotten a new California license plate: "XWING83" (it's a 1983 car, and XWING 1-9 were all taken).

Regarding Kane, uh, Lucas: There hasn't even been much in the local media lately. I did get to be an extra in "Howard the Duck" and so can report George is in fact alive and well and looking pretty relaxed.

Regarding STAR TREK: One of the TV weathermen announced last night he's been asked to be an official weatherman for STIV. Don't know exactly what THAT means, but will keep my eyes peeled for anything.

Onto the letters. Another enjoyable, non-in-furiating issue (whew!)

Linda D. and everyone: Regarding the seemingly endless debate over "droid rights", machine sentience, etc., the place where I'm working (Stanford U. experimental computers in medicine dept.) has projects that are right out on the cutting edge of artificial intelligence. F'instance, there's one in which a doctor can input a patient's symptoms and the computer will tell you what disease the person has and how best to treat it. These programs (called "expert systems" if I'm learning the jargon right) are written to "learn" and get smarter the more they're used. These currently-meaningless questions we're debating may become important before too long.

Mary K: I've got a Luke doll, too! I found a ~~swanky~~ gaffiated fan who sold me the WHOLE set of large size action figures for \$200. About "Slow Boat to Bespin": that's what provoked The Great LFL Guideline Flap, if I remember my fannish history aright. "The Holy Sisters of Luke's Black Glove"?! Kinky, but I like it...

Mickey: I'm not 40, but I got your Stang reference anyway. And my mom used to buy about a gross of black masks every year so I could be Zorro, too!

Matt: Thanks for not bowing to peer pressure and sticking with us.

Tim: I played the same Civil War RPG, also as a Southern extremist. I prevented secession, too. Mostly because the kids from the North were dumber than your average womprat. I tried picturing Mark and Harrison with pointy ears and Carrie blue-skinned and cracked up. Check out my Han filk to "Only the Good Die Young" in TREMOR IN THE FORCE #1 (where's my check, Cheree?). ROCK AND RULE is on cable this month. There's a guy at my college whose license plate reads "ACK GAG" and plate frame says "Chaufeur to Bill the Cat".

Carol Mularski: Welcome back. I nearly choked reading your letter when I came across your RS reference. Ha! Very appropriate and well-put.

Lin: Thanks for the Startone address. I'm all for writing our own ROTJ radio show, but where would we find enough male voices to do it? Tim and Matt would get laryngitis eventually (bad enough they're going to lose their pancreases. Pancreasi?). And, how would we all agree on what to fill the "Reprensible Gaps" with when we can't even agree on what's in the movie now?!

About what editors, etc. want in a LoC. If you don't want to comment on everything, don't. Say what you liked, what you didn't like, and why. Criticism can be painful to hear, but it's the only way to learn. Of course, if you want to babble unreservedly about how wonderful a zine is, that's always welcome, too! Hope that gives you some hints. Now I'll be expecting a LoC from you, ahem. And everyone else, or I'll have to quiver my antennae.

Glad you liked my "actors thinking about lunch" theory. A plague of locusts has nothing on a cast and crew descending on the catering truck. Ditto taking their opportunity to catch a nap whenever possible.

Carole: Yes, all us Marysues hope Lukie-poo accepted an offer--as long as he waited for OUR offer, right? On your "Just a Thought", though--Luke said in the film, "I have no memory of [my mother]."

Maggie: Agree heartily with your comments on West Coast geography. I'll drive 250 miles round-trip for a weekend without thinking about it, though I'm tired of ~~idly//from//the//easy//ways~~ people intimating I can pop down to L.A. whenever I want. It's an eight-hour drive, folks--about as far as Boston to D.C. or New York to Cleveland. ((Ed: Reminds me of a story my dad told, of a man who drove into a gas station in my home town, just east of Dallas. As he filled up his car, he looked somewhat frazzled and asked one of the men, "Where am I?" "Forney," the mechanic answered. "Is that in Texas?" the man asked. Upon confirmation, he sighed and said, "I was afraid of that. I came in at El Paso and I've been driving for two days and I can't get out of this damned state!"))

Steve Martin as a Solo cousin! I picture a cartoon of Han opening the hatch to find a guy in Corellian spacer garb with an arrow through his head. Smuggling is not pretty!

About your chart, I fall into all 3 of the bottom categories, as well as the OFSWFC (if it still exists--nobody at Xanadu, uh, I mean the Ranch, will return my calls). I joined that just to get posters cheap.

Sandi: You, "shy and reticent"? Choke. Look-

ing forward to more Luke (and others) lust with you Real Soon Now.

Bev: Liked your comments regarding xenophobia, but feel compelled to point out that everyone's use of "human" and "non-human" is ethnocentric in itself. Many tribes have names that mean "the people" or "real people"; James White in one of his "Sector General" novels (ripping good stuff, those) says that all of his various galactic species call themselves something that in their language translates to "human". Darned if I know what we'd use as a substitute, though, so I guess we're all stuck. Guess I really just wanted to nitpick. Nothing personal, your letter just touched that thought off.

Jeannie: How about "Hell Toupee" on AS? Another weird comedy. And I don't live in a town named for a dog, it's named for the guy in Richard Chamberlain's last miniseries! Geez, some people are SO stupid!

Jenni: Mark in ZZ Top! Hee! Yes, yes, please do a SW tarot!! Luke's bionic hand...with attachments, natch, hummmm... (rest of sentence censored so Cheree can keep it PG). I dunno if I'm a BNF, but judging by my phone bill, I'm definitely a BMF.

Liz: Liked your comments about LoCs. When can I see Annie's valiant bid for shoelace conquest?

Pat Easley: That bad dubbing in the sailbarge scene has always bothered me, too. ((Ed: There just seems to be generally bad sfx in that sequence and in the Rancor scene--bad matte jobs, jerky model action, etc. They must have really been pushing a deadline during those sequences.))

Cheree: Whaddaya mean, Han's "all tied up"? My goodness, that implies either (a) he's unwilling, or (b) you and he have stranger tastes than I thought. Of course, I'm so pure-minded (stop that choking, everyone!). ((Ed: No comment.))

It seems we all think there are SW/ST parallels, though nobody can agree on just exactly who corresponds to who!

Lastly (thank the Force, I'm getting a writer's and typer's cramp): I got my legal tape of ROTJ (oh joy!), but it looks "squashed"--everyone's a little shorter and squatter than they ought to be, as if someone had overcompensated when putting the wide-screen image on tape. Is it just my tape, VCR, TV or has anyone else gotten this problem? ((Ed: To me, the most glaring thing was the over-compensation on the sound track, trying to imitate THX Dolby on a mono TV sound system--Darth and Jabba fairly blast you out of your seat when they speak!))

See my new improved ad for WELL OF THE SOULS in the Marketplace and send your/entire/wallet those orders in. I need the money!

FINALLY, see y'all at MediaWest*Con! You'll know me; I'm the one with the antennae who's NOT Annie or Liz, and is mumbling obscene things about Luke. Blond bombshell fen--look me up!

MTFB with us all!



Tim Blaes
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April 24, 1986

I was at work when I heard the CHALLENGER blew. I had been 20 minutes late for lunch and had just bolted down my meal. The speakers in the cafeteria were very low and set on some insipid "easy listening" station, and I noticed that they were doing a newsbreak at an odd time, and they were mentioning something about Dick Scobee's family. Why would they do that, unless...I was directly under a speaker, but I had to strain to hear what was being said, and it was a while before I understood the shuttle had exploded. I shook a little, registered a few denials with Deity, and went numb for the rest of the workday. The possibility that the crew might have somehow survived seemed viable to me, until I actually saw the explosion at Freeman's Newsstand. A few old men were there, some upset at the interruption in their normal viewing habits. An ugly bald man with fat ears thought this was a good time to mention that the Apollo program was a waste of money, and I said something to him. The old fart looked at me with absolute astonishment that I would disagree with him, and his reply told me I should have known better than to say anything.

When I got home, I started taping the news, skipping between ABC and NBC. I did a very bad job of recording, and I missed a lot of good stuff, but ten years from now, I'll pull this tape out and remember, or maybe I'll be able to show it to my kids.

At least two self-proclaimed Collector's Editions on the shuttle disaster hit the stands a week after. On page one of "A Tribute to America's Space Heroes" it informed me that the author "George Carpozi, Jr. is eminently qualified to write this story about the fatal flight of the shuttle CHALLENGER because he is the author of SUNSTRIKE, the best-selling science fiction book about a mad scientist who steals off in a futuristic second-generation shuttle and proceeds to blot out the sun with a plastic screen to freeze and conquer the Earth." Fascinating.

How many of you know about the Golden Trivia STAR TREK Edition? If you don't, it's understandable. Friends and I knew about Western Publishing's intention to produce the game well over a year ago, and had been looking all over for it. I finally found the set at Macon Opus Con 1, at about twice the store price. The dealer said that it had been out for eight months, but none of the stores around here would admit that the game existed. There seemed to be some sort of snafu in distribution. Western Pub said that part of it was because the bottom fell out of the trivia game market; after the glut of Trivial Pursuit rip-offs, the stores wouldn't carry most of them anymore. But the game does exist, and it's a good one, too. Only a handful of mistakes in it. I would suggest that interested fans ask for this game at all stores that carry Golden Trivia games, and perhaps at stores that don't, and let's see if we can get the game moving. (Western Pub had planned to produce a second set of cards before the ST Edition stalled.)

Liz Sharpe: Liked your Clone article. GL said that the "world" of the first trilogy will be very different from the one we've just seen. There's no telling how close you are to what he has planned, but it feels close to what he might pull. If the

Jedi realized what was going to happen to them in time, might they have set up a sperm/ova/cloneable cell bank someplace? This is presuming that at least some of the Jedi potential is genetic. I half expected George to do this when I read a pre-ROTJ blurb about the moon of Endor, and how Luke was to discover the "secrets" of the forest moon.

Linda Deneroff: When we discuss SW in the context of literature, it can't help but be compared and measured beside other similar works. I see no harm in looking at the Saga through different filters, or even a funhouse mirror or two.

Where is SW fandom going? I'm not sure that it's going anywhere. We're much too occupied watching the mud fly to notice that we are spinning our wheels.

"Android" means, I think, "in the form of a man." This definition could refer to a mind rather than a form, so R2 could be considered an android.

Mary Keever: Once upon a time a zine-ed sent a story to Lucasfilm because the zine-ed feared they might object to it. But Lucasfilm said it was okay to print the story, and the zine-ed did. Enter a Swedish fanzine called DARK LORD that published a sado-masochistic Han/Vader story. Lucasfilm screamed. This stupid rag, not even an American zine, started a chain reaction that has muddied the waters between us and Lucasfilm to this day. Maureen Garrett sent out letters threatening to shut down all fanzines, not just the SW zines. They over-reacted terribly and the whole thing was just pathetic.

A personal result of this mess, I don't trust Lucasfilm, could care less about the apparent dissolution of the OSWFC, and my opinion of George Lucas was tarnished, if not exactly damaged. George thinks he owns us, simply because he "permits" us to publish fanzines. He just can't grasp the idea that he can't or shouldn't control everything about him. I really don't want to dredge up this debate again. Our legal status is debateable and uncertain; the only way to find out would be in court, and I'm not eager for that to happen. But I'll kick the dead dog just once more and say this. These movies are indeed GL's "toys", but this is our "backyard"! If George wants to throw a tantrum and run off with his toys, that's fine with me. There are other things in life.

Just what is my kind of weird? (You asked for it, sweetcakes.) Well, I'm working with a friend to design our own role-playing game, tentatively titled "Modern Magic." It's full of things like heroic Demons, smurfs from space, and a sasquatch candidate for President (hey, he is an American citizen). The gods and goddesses of various pantheons are also running about, complete with a quasi-scientific explanation for their existence. After we get the system worked out, I have modules planned with such titles as "Santa Claus vs. the Ninja Hoard from Mars", "Against All Oz", and a proposed three-part module about a war between Smurftroopers and Communist Care Bears, with Earth caught in the middle (the sight of the first wave of the invasion will be a Hilton hotel somewhere in Michigan). One of the reasons I'm bringing this up is that once we get our act together and get this thing down on paper we will need art to include with it. Is there an artist in the house?

Michelle Malkin: Please write that book about the use of Luke's real name. I remember seeing most of that "Tarzana of the Ewoks" episode of the Ewoks cartoon. It's not quite as bad as I first thought it to be, but it still doesn't feel a part

of the same universe as the movies. In the cartoon Ewoks seem much less like aliens, and too much like the sort of humans George Lucas was raised by. Ewoks even have first names, last names, and middle initials? Ewoks should be more than just Furry Anglo-Saxon Protestants (FASPs?).

Matthew Whitney: How do I feel about losing my "monopoly" in SE by sharing its pages with you? Great! Now there are two small black dots on an all white canvas. Boy, does this make me feel less conspicuous. (By the way, how is your pancreas? You're not missing any vital organs, are you? Ya gotta watch these women.)

I still don't think Vader enjoys torture. When he choked the rebel at the start of ANH, it's rather clear to me that Vader lost his temper and snapped the man's neck unintentionally. Vader was seldom in control of his anger, and accounts for several lost opportunities on his part, but a bad temper is not sadism.

Ye Ed: There are a bunch of typos, mistakes and omissions in my LoC and they all can't be mine. I think you left Lisa Thomas' name out of my reply to her. And it was Gorbachev, not Andropov, I was talking about, though I know I can't spell either of their names properly. And I think you've been randomly dropping paragraphs out of my LoCs. I may be long, but not as much as some other letterhacks in SE. Who holds the record for the longest LoC? ((Ed's note: I have been very carefully marking off each paragraph as I type it so that I won't leave out any. Typos I plead freely to making; though I proof each page of SE, I can't catch them all. And to all of my readership I'd would say, if you think this job is a piece of cake--typing what amounts to 130-140 legal-size pages, all of which comes in roughly at the same time, proofing those pages, correcting mistakes, re-printing them, doing lay-out, paste-up, getting them to the printers, collated, stapled, addressed and mailed on time, four times a year, all of it squeezed into a more-than-full-time job, while also taking care of home and family and pets and occasional severe medical problems--try it sometime. In other words, walk a mile in my Adidas before you complain that the laces are knotted. And I do apologize if all this sounds like sour grapes; I truly do the very best I can. And, I think Marlene Karkoska probably has the record for longest LoC.))

Sally Syrjala: Your talk about Head/Heart/Hand sounds familiar. Did you just see METROPOLIS when you wrote that?

Vonnie Fleming: When I said that the story was "psychotic", I meant that it was about five unwritten pages away from turning into an s&m scene with Leia and an evil female pirate. Since I don't read Kirk/Spock fan fiction, I would be hypocritical to write something similar. And I would be foolish to write about something I have no first-hand knowledge of (I am not, nor have I ever been, a lesbian). However, I may come back to it, dump the s&m, kill the bitch pirate, and explain why Leia doesn't have the lightsaber Luke gave her in "Leia vs. Murphy's Law" (still in re-write, I'm afraid). If kinky sex is what you're after, then tune into Bev Lorenstein's PERFECT FUSION, whenever it comes out. It contains Yet Another Untitled Abomination By Yours Truly (although I suppose I could entitle it "Leather Loving Princess").

Lin S. Ward: What if Leia decides to dump the Alliance before they really want her to go. There has been some talk about Leia having the adapt to Han's lifestyle, and vice versa, but they could

just as easily meet halfway. Perhaps start a legit freighter company. There are all sorts of new worlds for the both of them.

Maggie Nowakowska: Interesting little chart you have there. It's about time somebody tried to sift things out. The problems with it is that a lot of people fit sideways between more than one category; I don't know exactly where I should place myself on the diagram.

Another thing; TREK magazine once did a "Fan on the Street" poll. They went out to shopping malls, theaters, schools, etc., and started asking questions to anybody who watched the show and knew more about it than "space ships" and "pointed ears". And there were lots of people they found out watch ST and have very definite opinions about the show, though they are not what we think of as "ST fans". In terms of likes and dislikes, the general audience of ST is not significantly different from ST fans. Perhaps the same can be said of STAR WARS and its audience/fans.

And then there is the "lone fan syndrome"; people who would be fans as we know them, but who simply don't know we exist as a group. I'm inclined to consider anybody fifteen years or older who has seen SW three times or more of their own volition to be a "sleeping fan."

There may indeed be only a few thousand fanzine fans (all media) scattered across the country, but we are the tip of the iceberg, the conscious mind that is a part of the unconscious mass audience. We are not the majority, but we are a fair representation of that majority.

So George tried to sue the Government and he got his butt burned. Well, dry tears in my eyes, sweetcakes! He got what was coming to him. I wonder who put it in his head that it was the Government who started using the term "Star Wars". I thought it was the press/public at large that applied it to space weapons. Reagan himself tried to stop the use of "Star Wars" to describe SDI. If they didn't have SW to compare it to, then they would be using STAR TREK, and if they didn't have ST, then they would use BUCK ROGERS for analogy. Count the number of ships blowing up on both sides in all three movies and tell me there is no legit allegory between SW and SDI. And how is a space defense system more of a "blind faith in machinery" than thousands of multiple warhead missiles cocked and ready to fire? Once we can protect ourselves, we can drop our gun from the temple of the Soviet citizen. The ideal set-up would be for us to go co-op with the USSR; we built it, they put it in orbit, and we both pay and maintain it. But that will never happen. When we proposed our SDI, how did the Soviet government respond? The inventors of the killer-satellite did not openly plan an SDI of their own, they threatened to render ours useless, overtaxing it with more of their missiles and by attacking our space defense system itself.

Bev Clark: What do I want from Lucasfilm? To be left alone, mostly. I felt uneasy about their request that every fanzine send four copies to four different places. George could never admit to reading a fanzine, so why ask for a copy? Did BANTHA TRACKS ever explain what a fanzine was or recommend any to its members? (They did reprint an article out of SKYWALKER. Big deal, it never happened again.) Not that it would have done us much good, as the majority of the OSWFC members are still in kindergarten. Lucasfilm/OSWFC has nothing that I truly want. They give us nothing but trinkets and very little useful information, yet treat us in a

very condescending manner. All I have to say to Lucasfilm is, Don't Tread On Me!

Jeanine Hennig: I hope you do go through and produce a SW tarot deck. Or perhaps a multi-media tarot deck with everything from ST to Greatest American Hero; then you would have a larger selection of characters and themes to incorporate than you would just using SW, a saga that isn't even over yet. I once toyed with the idea of creating my own tarot from scratch, for use in one of my stories. All I can remember about it now was one card, the Madman, that had to do with inspiration/creativity.

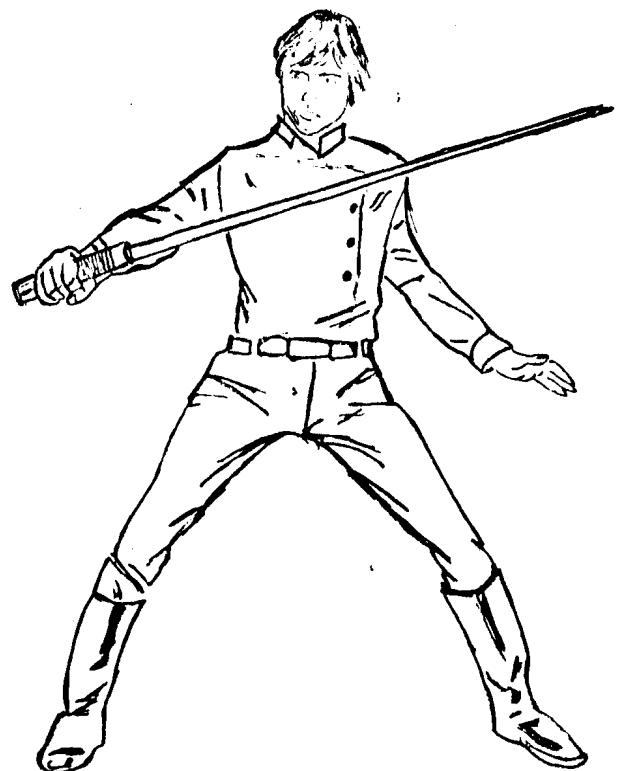
Pat Easley: About the only thing I didn't like about "I Am Legend" was the suicide of the hero at the end. ENEMY MINE is one of the year's best movies. I hope a sequel is in the works.

AMAZING STORIES suffers from half-baked plots, silliness, and globs of sugary sentimentality stuck on at the wrong moment. TWILIGHT ZONE could have done "Hell Toupee" much better. The story about the little girl in the coma and the old man who helps her was just fine, until the last few minutes when it turned syrupy. I don't even want to talk about "The Secret Cinema."

It's a pity that most of you don't read comics. SWAMP THING just wound up its "American Gothic", Earth now has half a dozen alien Green Lanterns camping out on the planet, and the JSA is forever trapped in a Goetterdaemmerung (the bodies are still dropping, even after "Crisis on Infinite Earths" is over). Does anybody know what I'm talking about? I didn't think so. If any of you non-comic readers out there would like to read what you've been missing, I would be glad to recommend what I find excellent and offer commentary.

Have you considered making transcripts of some of the panels at MediaWest and Conzineience this year? Many may not attend these conventions or may have to miss a panel.

From the Outer Limits of the Twilight Zone...



Darth Vader, Dark Lord
The Afterworld
A Galaxy Far, Far Away

April 21, 1986

Greetings, Earthlings.

Do not be alarmed; this appearance will be brief. I would merely like to give my thanks to you fen out there who have been supporting me so loyally. (Especially Vonnie Fleming.)

Vonnie, I like your idea of "Vader Fen of the Galaxy Unite"! I've been trying to get my son into something like that. I keep telling him, "Join them, and together you can rule the galaxy as fans and son." But he just looks at me sideways and tells me to fade out. Children are becoming awfully independent these days, aren't they? (*sigh*)

So once again, I thank all of you for your loyalty. (And did I kill Captain Needa? you ask. Well, you may never know...)

Keep up the good work.

P. S. Jeanine Hennig: Would you ever consider writing something about the private life of a Sith-lord?

((Ed's note: As God is my witness, this actually came in the mail! And not from Vonnie Fleming!))

Clones

Marlene Karkoska
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April 25, 1986

There were lots of thought-provoking ideas in SE#11 and people with differing opinions were able to politely disagree without acrimony. HOORAY! I much prefer the recent peaceful discussions to the previous verbal WARS! I know that a lot of people disagreed with my opinion that Ben and Yoda should have told Luke the truth about his father before he left for Bespin, but they expressed their disagreement without rancor. My position on this issue has not changed. However, I wanted to state for the record that while I think Yoda and Ben were wrong in this instance, I still do like these characters very much. I just don't see them as infallible. They can make mistakes like anyone else. A Jedi is not a god. However, I think they are basically good and wise individuals and the STAR WARS films are richer because of their contributions to the Saga.

I'd like to follow Liz Sharpe's suggestion that we give honorable mentions to artists as well as writers of fan fiction. Some of the cover art that I found especially appealing during the past year were Laura Virgil's drawing of Han and Luke for SOUTHERN KNIGHTS #1, Liz Hoolahan's Han, Luke and Leia for GUARDIAN #7, Karen River's Han and Chewie for WOOKIEE COMMODORE II, Melea Fisher's Luke and Leia for ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH, and Carolyn Cooper's colorful front and back covers of Han and Luke for FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW. All of Jim Markle's drawings in ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH are wonderful and Jean Kluge's Han and

a drawing of Luke and Obi-Wan in GUARDIAN #7 are lovely!

Liz Sharpe: WOW, Liz! What a fascinating theory about the fall of the Republic and the Jedi! I loved it! Your article is scholarly, thorough, and fluently written. Your theory is plausible, logical and nicely derived from on-screen facts. It would make a great background for the first trilogy story, I think. I applaud your efforts to solve the mystery of the past from the pieces of the puzzle that were presented in the middle trilogy! The issue of clones probably did bring about the ultimate fall of the Republic and the Jedi. Whether or not the clones were ever actually produced, you're probably right that "...it was the ideological repercussions of this sudden advance, more than its concrete manifestations which threw the Old Republic into an uproar." You may also be right that the Jedi (and the Republic, too) may have lacked a key leader during this time of crisis while the Republic's enemies may have been very well organized and had the advantage of a strong, dynamic leader (Palpatine?), whose goals were clear and well-established and who had a large, loyal following. The enemies of the Old Republic and the Jedi probably did misdirect the research that made cloning possible and this caused the mass hysteria that these enemies hoped it would. Perhaps these enemies then started vicious rumors to the effect that the Jedi were planning to clone themselves many times over in order to take control of the Galaxy and to establish themselves as superior citizens who would treat "normal" individuals who were not Force-gifted as inferiors (that is, if Force ability can be cloned along with the person!). This could have aroused tremendous panic in some "normal" individuals who may have fantasized about hordes of powerful Force-wielding Jedi abusing their powers and forcing them (pun intended) into submission. (Especially after the news of Vader's fall was spread.) Perhaps many of these individuals were so frightened, that they were persuaded by the enemies of the Jedi to help eliminate the Knights before they could be cloned. Perhaps even some former friends and allies of the Jedi betrayed the Knights and led unsuspecting Jedi Knights to their executions. [Betrayal by close friends would help explain how the powerful Knights were destroyed within a rather short period of time. Also, maybe at any given period of the Galaxy's history there were a relatively small number of Jedi Knights actively serving the Republic--perhaps several hundred. I realize that the Galaxy is very large (1000 worlds?), but it only took two Dark Siders, Vader and the Emperor, to effectively control the Galaxy with the help of the Imperial forces... And look at what one newly trained, very inexperienced, not-quite-Jedi Knight (Luke Skywalker), managed to accomplish almost single handedly on Tatooine! So, it seems possible that even several hundred Knights, with Republic Forces at their disposal (and patrolling and monitoring given systems for the Jedi), could have guarded the Galaxy quite efficiently. Perhaps when problems arose in a system, a small group of Jedi Knights, working in conjunction with the Republic Forces, quickly and effectively resolved the difficulty. (I realize it would make the job of preserving peace and justice a lot easier if there were many more Knights in service, but then it would be more difficult to understand how the Jedi were almost totally exterminated.))

If there was some anti-Jedi feeling in the Galaxy at the time of the Clone Wars, it seems that

after the Emperor, Vader and the Imperials took over, creating the "Dark Times", people regretted the loss of the Jedi Knights. I say this because the Alliance seemed to think highly of the Jedi. Leia was on her way to recruit the services of the last known Jedi (Ben Kenobi), when she was captured and the Alliance used the Jedi slogan, "May the Force be with you" almost like a blessing. Then, too, Luke was respected enough to be allowed aboard the Headquarters Frigate and was permitted to make his own decisions and choose his own assignments in his new status as Jedi.

I have heard many negative comments about the Jedi from STAR WARS fans. These fans seem to suggest that since the Jedi fell, there must have been something corrupt about them and their organization that led to their fall. In her article, Liz Sharpe even states, "There does seem to be a general feeling that the Jedi were corrupt." Speaking on behalf of the Jedi, I'd like to point out that the middle trilogy movies gives no evidence of Jedi corruption, nor do the novelizations. To requote Ben Kenobi in the SW novelization, speaking about Jedi Knights: "In many ways, they were too good, too trusting for their own health." The prologue says, "Having exterminated through treachery and deception the Jedi Knights, the Imperial governors and bureaucrats prepared to institute a reign of terror among the disheartened worlds of the Galaxy." Therefore, it's still my contention that the Jedi Knights were not inherently evil, and were not responsible for their own destruction, but rather, were victims who were betrayed and purged as they continued to protect the Republic. It was the Republic that fell because of corruption, but unfortunately, the Jedi failed to see that corruption in time, and fell with it (perhaps even betrayed by people very close to them in the Republic). So HOW did the Jedi get their rotten reputation among STAR WARS fans? How did the fans come to feel that the Jedi were morally tainted? Well, it's my theory that Darth Vader is responsible for tarnishing the Jedi's good name. We only see a few Jedi in the middle trilogy--Ben, Yoda, Luke and Vader. Since Ben incorporates early on and Luke is an apprentice through most of the trilogy, and Yoda mostly speaks rather than acts, Darth Vader's actions speak rather loudly. Knowing Vader was once a Jedi, and witnessing his terrible abuse of the Force seems to leave many STAR WARS fans with a rather negative impression of the whole Jedi order. I think some people feel that since Vader was corrupted, there must have been something wrong with the organization that caused him to fall, or there must have been other Knights who were evil as well. However, there is no evidence of this in either the films or novelizations. Perhaps if the audience could have seen "typical" Knights in action, their perception of the Jedi Order would be more favorable.

Michelle Malkin: Your comment about the kind of Jedi group Luke will form: "Going back to the same old thing could simply lead to the same old downfall," again suggests the idea that the old Jedi organization was either corrupt or faulty in some way and that a new Jedi Order should not be modeled on the old way. I may be in the minority here, but I disagree. Ben Kenobi said, "For over a thousand generations, the Jedi Knights were the guardians of peace and justice in the Old Republic." ANY organization or way of life that can not only continue to exist for that length of time but remain highly effective and respected as well, must have been a remarkable organization and DESERVES to be

emulated! To be able to withstand all of the changes that must have taken place during that incredible amount of time, and to operate efficiently in a vastly diverse Galaxy, is truly an impressive feat! I'm sure that if Luke were told that the order he founds will "only" be effective for the next thousand generations before it will face a crisis that will threaten its survival, he would be positively DELIGHTED! Not much lasts forever! Although I agree it would be very important to know exactly what caused the Jedi to nearly be brought to extinction in order to avoid having history repeat itself a thousand generations in the future, I also think it would be VERY beneficial to know what it was that they did do so well which enabled them to successfully protect the Galaxy for so long. As Liz Sharpe said in her article, "Whatever it was the Jedi did, they seem to have been remarkably effective in keeping the day to day existence of the Old Republic running smoothly." I agree, and contrary to those who feel that Luke should establish a totally different kind of Jedi Order than existed in the past, I hope Luke utilizes much of the Ancient Jedo Organization's ideals, structure, and mode of operation. (That is, if such knowledge is not lost to him. Perhaps some of his "friends long gone"--Yoda, Ben, even Anakin, and their ancestors and contacts can fill Luke in on Jedi history and Ancient Jedi methods of organization.) Obviously, there will be some differences in the New Jedi simply because Luke's a different person than the original founder of the ancient Order and the Galaxy is a different place than it was a thousand generations earlier. Still, I think much of the old way could be utilized. Even if Luke Skywalker has access to all of the Ancient Jedi knowledge, information and history, it will still be a monumental task to resurrect the Jedi Order. However, although it's true that Luke got the job of founding father of a new Jedi Organization sort of by default (he is, after all, the only surviving Jedi Knight!), I think that he is uniquely well-suited to the task and would have been a good choice to re-establish the Jedi Knights even if there had been hundreds of others for Ben and Yoda to choose from. Luke is a strong, compassionate, caring, creative individual who has learned the value of patience. He has a knack for solving difficult and unusual problems, and he has something of a charismatic quality about him--something appealing. He has also demonstrated leadership qualities. Even in his first battle, fresh off the farm, he was cool and capable when his squadron leader's death left him in charge. In addition, Luke's brush with the Dark Side and his memory of what happened to his father will probably cause him to take extra precautions when he sets up the Jedi school and begins training others. He will be more likely to question his own judgement and seek advice when in real doubt, and to limit his own authority than another Jedi might be.

Jeanine Hennig: As one who is solely a reader of fan fiction and not a writer, I'm probably totally unqualified to answer your question about whether the characters are Lucas' or the fan fiction writers', but I decided to put in my two cents' worth anyway. I purchase zines to read about the characters I know and love--Lucas' characters. If the principal characters in fan fiction are portrayed too differently from the screen versions and don't seem to be the same people, or if the characters behave in ways totally inappropriate for the characters presented to us by Lucas, my interest in the

story and enjoyment of it are diminished, no matter how creative or well-written the story may be. I've got to be able to recognize the characters as having the same qualities and personalities as the screen characters or for me, the story's credibility is affected. If a character is presented who bears little or no resemblance to the on-screen character, then I prefer that the character be given a different name and be introduced as an original character.

I still think that the fan writer has plenty of leeway and can be quite creative when writing about Lucas' characters without destroying the characters' basic personalities, because all of the Big Three are complex individuals. They can be unpredictable at times and are capable of surprising us. (Part of their charm, I think!) Also, because each person perceives things a little differently, the Han, Luke, and Leia of different fan writers will have a slightly different flavor to them. That, I don't mind. However, when any of the major characters is portrayed totally inaccurately--as incredibly weak, cold or foolish, or as an evil Dark Sider, I am immediately turned off by such stories because the character is totally alien and I can't accept him or her as being Luke, Han or Leia. Also, if one character in a story is purposely degraded in order to make another character seem more wonderful, I do not enjoy those stories either. Lucas' characters complement one another, help one another, and love one another; they don't compete with one another for supremacy. So, I guess my answer is that the characters are Lucas' and I prefer them that way.

Carolyn Gollidge: A belated contragulations on going pro! I definitely agree with your comments to Jean Stevenson that the reason Luke didn't tell Leia that he was her brother sooner was that he wanted to spare her the emotional shock of discovering that she was Vader's daughter on the eve of battle. If not for the problem of dear old Dad, I agree--Luke would have "thrown a party to celebrate!"

Bev Clark: I liked your idea that Yoda may have hidden himself and Dagobah from the rest of the Galaxy so that he could remain an "insurance policy" for the Jedi.

Kerri Smithline: It was acknowledged in ROTJ that Luke and Leia were twins, so they could not have been born years apart. Also, Leia couldn't have had a different father because Yoda referred to "the Other" as a Skywalker.

Mary Kever: I liked your idea that perhaps in normal times Jedi children were trained from birth. If being a Jedi is a way of life as well as a career (as it seems to be), it seems likely that it would be beneficial to start early. Maybe if children are taught young enough and gradually enough, the danger of falling to the Dark isn't as great as with Force talents who are taught later in life and whose training is rushed. Perhaps that was why Vader fell and the Dark Side was a danger to Luke--both began their training well past early childhood, and Luke at least, seemed to receive a crash course in Jedi teachings. He certainly was not accorded the luxury of spending leisurely years studying Jedi doctrine and history or perfecting newly learned Jedi skills. He was "thrown into the lion's den", so to speak, almost immediately. I always had the impression (and I could be wrong about this!), that there were very few Jedi Knights in the history of the Galaxy that fell to the Dark. (In fact, Vader may have been the first.) If that's true, perhaps it's because throughout history, almost all Jedi were taught from infancy and those

trained in Jedi beliefs that early in life and encouraged to be "patient, calm, at peace" even as babies or toddlers, were rarely tempted by the Dark Side.

The reprints of articles about Lucas in SE#11 were not very encouraging about the future of SW. They give the impression that the interest of the masses in SW is gone. I don't believe that's true. If a new film were in the works, I believe there would again be an outbreak of STAR WARS fever. It's difficult for most people to sustain enthusiasm for something that seems to be ended. If, however, there were indications from Lucasfilm that a new SW film was being produced, I believe it would spark a renewed interest in the SW saga. The children in my current first grade class are proof that the SW universe retains its appeal. Ever since TESB was shown on cable (and with the subsequent release of ROTJ on videocassette), the children haven't stopped chatting about SW, drawing pictures of SW characters and vehicles in their free time, playing SW at recess, and lamenting the fact that they can't find Han, Luke and Leia action figures at the local toy-store. Among the six-year-old set, at least, STAR WARS is alive and well! ...And the popularity of the ROTJ videocassette (as evidenced by both sales and rentals) attests to the fact that many adults remain fond of that faraway galaxy also. ((Ed: My sister-in-law is a first grade teacher and she has said the same thing regarding SW and her little ones. She keeps the trilogy handy and shows some of it on rainy days when the weather keeps the kids inside. They love it!))

Here's a bit of trivia for those of you who don't know: Cleveland's major indoor soccer league team is the Cleveland Force--named for the SW Force. The Force won first place in the Eastern Division this year for the first time in the history of the franchise. They are currently in the playoffs and have just won the quarterfinal round. When the Force plays at home, the Collesium is darkened, a star field is simulated, and the STAR WARS main theme is played as the team is introduced, and Darth Vader, the team mascot, cheers them on, while some fans wave lightsabers. (Vader was banned by Lucasfilm's lawyers for a time, because Lucas said it wasn't right for a symbol of evil to be a team mascot, but he must have relented, because Old Darth returned late in the season.)

Well, Cheree, so much for "giving you a break" this time! This letter is even longer than usual! (SIGH) I think someone had better hide my pen! That's about the only way to keep this "motormouth" from getting "carried away", it seem! Have a happy summer, everyone!



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April 25, 1986

Well, this issue we're back as a team again, so here goes.

CHALLENGER Tragedy: Helluva way to start the year. Anyone who remembers the Apollo fire (Barb: I do, Ed White was my hero) and the near miss with Apollo 13, knows that space travel is a risky business. But these seven deaths are no less heart-breaking for knowing that. (Barb) I have always loved "The Phoenix" from MINUS TEN AND COUNTING, now it will take on an added meaning. Then there is John Denver's beautiful "Flying For Me" and a verse I recently read by Archibald McLeish called "The Young Dead Soldiers". It ends like this: "...we leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning./.. we were young. We have died. Remember us." Let us remember our astronauts in the best possible way. Let's fix the problem and get on with it.

Clones: Excellent article by Liz Sharpe. If anyone is interested, LeGuin wrote an excellent short story called "Nine Lives" which really makes one sit up and take notice about the issue of clones. It's in a collection called MODERN SCIENCE FICTION put out by Anchor Books.

Just a minor correction: The picture was taken in Sitka, Alaska. ((Ed: Whoops! Sorry 'bout that!))
Ewoks: (Barb) "The Battle for Endor" was very enjoyable. I loved Teek and Wilfred Brimley's character.

Malkin: (Pam) Not to mention the fact that Zorro wore a black mask as well as the black hat! And didn't he also ride a black horse? Tolkien fans out there will see the imagery and implications in that! ((Ed: Hey, the Lone Ranger wore a black mask, too!))

Whitney: (Barb) I like your idea that Luke had a plan to get the Emperor to expend power to attack him. It makes sense.

Blaes: (Barb) Sorry, but my folks apparently got rid of that Civil War book. I'll check at the library.

Mularski: We have been writing letters together because we often want to say the same things. We've tried not to make it confusing. The best way to tell who's making which comment is by the name that appears in front of it. If there's no name then we basically said the same thing when we were jotting down notes, and refined the comment when the letter was typed.

(Barb) What's this about Harrison Ford's performance in ROTJ? I thought it was fine. He wouldn't use a bad back as an excuse in any case.

As long as people are mentioning their favorite stories, I will put in a plug for A LIGHT FROM THE DARK by Mary Jean Holmes. There is a sequel out now called TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY. She handles the characters very well.

Ward: (Pam) Usually if you are honest and state exactly why you did or did not like something the writer or the artist will get helpful feedback. You don't have to be an expert or go into complex evaluations, just try to think up constructive ideas if you do criticize.

Nowakowska: (Barb) I live in Denver, which of course, doesn't exist because everyone knows there is nothing between Chicago and Los Angeles.

Interesting chart. I could probably put myself in several places.

You have just found someone who strongly objects to the use of "Star Wars" to refer to SDI. I refuse to do so: it just makes me wild. As far as I'm concerned, this is right up there with calling the MX missile the "Peacekeeper." Ridiculous. Lucas was perfectly correct to sue and it's too bad he lost.

Golledge: (Barb) Yes, I agree that Han might already have said, "I love you." And I too am fond of "Love's Mysteries."

Clark: Nice letter. Your points regarding Lucasfilm and fandom are well taken. We have to keep this whole thing in perspective.

We agree with Cheree about Deckard not being a replicant; it does give a deeper meaning to the film, especially his relationship with Rachael. As to the ending, we prefer the second, because we don't like to be left in limbo. In any case, subsequent stories have pretty much ignored it.

Webster: (Pam) A. C. Crispin. That's an interesting comment from someone who wrote YESTERDAY'S SON and is currently working on the sequel, both ST books. We got to hear her at Alti-Egos last year and neither one of us was impressed.

Callahan: (Pam) All this talk of droids having or not having rights got me to thinking about 2010 and HAL. I remember a scene where a discussion was going on about how flexible and independent HAL really was, when Roy Scheider popped up and said he believed HAL to be no more than a mechanical extension of the personality of his creator. He believed a lot of the personality was programmed in to make HAL more "user-friendly". 3PO seems to be a variant on this theme and I don't see him in the same league as V'ger +.

Hennig: (Barb) Yes, I saw Mark Hamill in AMAZING STORIES and I thought it was quite good.

Thomas: (Pam) If the stormtroopers are clones, it doesn't necessarily follow that they are from the same vat. Hence, different heights and girths.

Cheree: Ah, someone else who remembers JONNY QUEST. How about THE JETSONS (my favorite) or FIRE BALL XL-5? ASTRO-BOY? ((Ed: I adore THE JETSONS but never got into the other two. However, I remember watching THE HERCULOIDS and 8TH MAN.))

Now down to the final comments. If there are any Julian Glover fans out there, he is excellent in "By the Sword Divided" on MASTERPIECE THEATER.

Try this one as a sign off. "You have to have faith for that to work, Mr. Vincent."



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April 22, 1986

The arrival of each new issue of SE is always a happy event, and #11 proved even more so than usual due to the nice welcome comments offered by so many. Thank you to EVERYONE. It is great to belong to such a wonderful family.

I'm glad Carol Mularski asked what Mark Hamill has been up to, because it gives me a chance to put in some plugs for my favorite actor. In addition to the stage work Cheree mentioned, he has just completed a run of almost two months in the off-Broadway produced of ROOM SERVICE. Directed by Alan Arkin at the Roundabout Theater, the 1937 play is a hysterical farce, and was once made into a Marx Brothers film. Mark superbly played Gordon Miller (Groucho's role), a sleazy producer trying to raise the cash to put on a new play. ROOM SERVICE was enormously successful, both critically and financially. Ticket sales went so well, in fact, that the run was extended by a week and there was even consideration of taking it to Broadway itself. (Final decision was "no." Shame. It would have done very well.)

During the run, I made three trips to NYC to see it and got to meet Mark each time. One trip, on March 1st, was a gathering of several Hamill fans from various states, which we jokingly call the "Great Northeastern Hamill-thon of 1986." (Hi, gang!) Everyone had a super time, and it was a real joy to meet fellow fans. In no time, we all felt like we'd been friends for years and the day took on the atmosphere of a full scale con.

The last time I saw it, I was able to get a photo taken with Mark that I hope Cheree can reproduce for SE. Not exactly framed well, but that is us. I'm the one in the Indy hat. Ha! Ha! ((Ed: See photo elsewhere in this issue.))

I've said it before and I'll say it again--Mark Hamill is one of the finest, most caring people you can ever hope to meet. Each time I saw RS, he was more than happy to speak with us and sign autographs. Even if he appeared rushed or short of time, he took the effort to make sure he'd signed for everyone who wanted an autograph.

Carrie Fisher, meanwhile, recently had a couple of supporting roles in two new releases. First was a small but well-played part in Woody Allen's HANNAH AND HER SISTERS, but the second, in a cheapie called HOLLYWOOD VICE SQUAD, was not landmark for her career. In that she had a thankless role as an undercover police officer. The film was not as bad as this type usually gets, but was poorly made. She looked great, though, and I hope she got a nice paycheck for it. (I bet Tim enjoyed it; my eyes certainly did.)

Linda Deneroff's question "Where do we go from here?" and Bev Clark's "What do we want from Lucas-film?" go hand in hand. On the first, personally, I am ready for the next trilogy to begin production. I don't think we need more films to keep fandom going, but I love the films and feel the quality will continue. Hopefully, GL is ready to begin work on them. He does not owe us these movies, not at all. But, I am hoping he wants to make them as much as I want to see them. If not, then the Saga should end here. Making the movies only to generate revenue for the Ranch would show up in the final product. The Saga should continue because Lucas

still has stories to tell in its framework. If so, he has the talent and ability to do so, and I'll lay down my \$ time and time again to see his films.

As for "What I want from LFL", if they continue what they've been doing, I will be ecstatic. That means more SW films, another "Indy", projects like LABYRINTH and HOWARD THE DUCK (which looks fascinating), the EWOKS and DROIDS shows are fine, ILM's work in the fx field, and everything else. I have no complaint with the merchandising; nothing I've purchased has been shoddy quality or unreasonably priced. I also am not complaining what they do or do not sell. The SW films strongly appeal to children, and I can see them gearing most of their products toward that market. Some products I do not buy, though; the comic for one. I was happy to see it discontinued, after having read several issues and skimmed many more, but never finding one to be even marginally passable. Perhaps it was just me, because, to dig up a cliché, several of my best friends read it. So, they obviously enjoyed some aspect of it. I do buy a lot of the other products, though. One line of items I would to see is of 8x10 stills, like so many dealers sell on a less than legitimate basis. I can appreciate the laws regarding how the actors would be owed royalties (etc.) but with the quality of the stills LFL must have access to, I'd gladly pay top dollar over what the hucksters charge. (Because of the laws, though, I don't expect anything to come out of this.)

On the other hand, I do not want LFL to branch off into more books. I've read far too many woe-fully mediocre pro-TREK novels to want SW to join the bandwagon. It is particularly the novelizations of the proposed other SW episodes I do not want. Those chapters I want to see as film, like the existing trilogy, and not read and wonder how they'd have looked on screen.

LFL should work on non-SW or Indy films to keep their creativity alive. One film I think they'd be able to turn into a masterpiece is a telling of the BEOWULF epic poem. (George, are you listening?) Lucas has every right in the world to continue building Skywalker Ranch, but he should not allow his dreams to become an unproductive, expensive think tank. That is not, I believe, what he wanted, and he should be careful to not let it become so. LFL's objectives should remain targeted on producing films and as long as they maintain the quality, the financial aspects will take care of themselves.

On another topic, the "new can of worms" Jenni Hennig opened last ish (about fan-fic), I feel an author has every right in the world to tell stories as s/he wants, and I'll argue to the death anyone who tells me I cannot. Dictating what can or cannot be written is like telling someone how to think. Fan fiction is a personal expression and a classic example of freedom of speech. It is no one's business but your own what you choose to commit to paper in the privacy of your own home. But...there is another question of rights involved here and that question arises when we speak of publishing an author's work for profit. (Note emphasis.) There, in the SW universe, the properties are owned by LFL (or GL himself, depending on how the company is structured) and it, LFL, should be the one to receive any financial rewards from its products. They are the ones who made SW a viable commodity by their work and risking of capital in bringing the films to the screen.

True, a fan author's work is his/her own creation in the largest sense, but we are still visitors in GL's world. If I saw a fan's book at the local

newsstand, advertised as a SW novel, I would lay down my \$ because of it being about SW, not because of the author. I have several favorite fan authors from my zine reading and would buy any of their pro efforts, be they SW or not, but only because of my knowing their work in the fan fiction arena. The general public (who do not read zines) do not know a fan author from any of the other hundreds of names on the shelf. They would not be able to judge before buying and reading the book whether the author is any good. Therefore, if they saw a SW novel on the shelf, they would invest their \$ because of it being SW, and not on the unknown merits of the author. How many of you had heard of Brian Daley before he wrote the Han Solo novels or of L. Neil Smith, who wrote the Lando ones? In general, I'd say most bought these books because of their subject and not the authors. They were licensed by LFL, and either the authors paid to use the characters and situations or were hired to do so (the latter probably), and LFL reaped the majority of the profits. That, I feel, is their right, because they made the commodity valuable.

Getting away from pro-fic to fan-fic, I do feel we should be allowed to put out fanzines (on the limited scale they now have). Zines do not hurt SW, if anything they help promote it. We are actually advertising for LFL--without pay. The reason we do it is because we enjoy it and as an expression of our appreciation for the Saga, and as long as it doesn't hurt the money-making potential of the films, I hope LFL will allow us to continue. (It would be a waste of legal fees to try and stop an editor who puts out a mere 200 copies of a zine and barely breaks even, never mind making a profit.) The question of violating copyright laws is not limited to making profits off another's work, as far as I understand it. It is also possible to be sued for damaging the original owner's money making potential. That is very difficult to prove, though, because you are talking about revenues not yet earned.

Well, I've surely said more than my fair share on these subjects. Onto others.

Carole Regine: Whether we agree or not, I'm glad we inspire each other to new ideas. Don't worry, you didn't step on any religious toes in the question on whether 3PO has a soul or not. You're right, my statement that droids have no souls was a personal belief (for lack of hard evidence), and the question IS still open. I do believe it is impossible for a mechanical to have a soul, but if anyone can dissuade me, I'll listen to any opinions, facts or theories.

Some evidence that I feel does support my belief is the fact that R2 was "killed" in ANH, but was repaired with no apparent change. (Note: I'm assuming he was totally disabled by DV's laser blasts. He looked "dead", and they seemed to think it was a major problem, so I think this is a valid assumption.) If he were "dead", then, would not any non-mechanical soul have left the body? To bring it back would then be a reincarnation, not the repairing of a mechanical device. The same could apply to 3PO in TESB.

There are cases of humans being "brought back from the dead" that have been well-documented, and could be used as evidence to support the claim that droids are equal to humans. I'm not that knowledgeable on this subject, but it seems that there is a different issue here than the restart of bodily organs.

Carole, you've raised some excellent points on

Yoda's and Obi-Wan's Big Gamble, especially that Luke was going to jump even before DV's revelation. I think they knew Darth would hold his tongue about being Luke's father until he had no other choice. My reasoning is similar to why Ben and Yoda did not tell Luke earlier. Luke's knowing DV was his father would not have made him open to the Darkside, no matter who told him. DV may have had to break Luke's spirit first during the duel before he could try to influence his mind. Telling Luke at the start of the duel (or at any point before he had destroyed his ability to resist) would have painted Darth as a liar in Luke's eyes. It seems there are shields around Force-users and during the duel Darth broke Luke's down and (ahem) forced him to open himself to the fact that he was his father. At any time up until then, Luke would have resisted and refused to acknowledge the truth of their relationship, as he indeed tried to do, but was too weak. (All of this is opinion, based on my interpretation of the scene, and everyone is free to agree or not.)

You are 100% right, Carole, that the Big Gamble ignored the possibility that Luke may not have had an escape. What would have happened if Luke could not have jumped is a great alternative idea for stories. I did not consider it myself in my last LoC, but my thoughts now that you've raised it is that it would not have changed Yoda's and Ben's decision to not tell Luke about DV being his father. If it had come to Luke having no escape (which would have been a real possibility), it would not have mattered who he heard the news from. Brought before the Emperor by Vader, I do not think Luke could have resisted the Darkside at that time--no untrained Jedi could have. Luke's gamble was in facing DV when he did not have mastery over the Force. DV had the cards stacked so high in his favor, the fact that he could claim being Luke's father was just one more wild card. Once Luke had made his choice, Obi-Wan's and Yoda's hands were tied and they could only give him the best help they could, no matter whether he was DV's son or not.

Carolyn Colledge: I don't think Han told Leia he loved her off-screen during TESB, but I love Pat Nussman's story (of him telling her as she slept) already--and I haven't even read it yet!

Thank you, Carolyn and Vonnie Fleming, for the praise and plugs for "Aftermath on Bespin." Much appreciated. Carolyn, your check is in the mail, and Vonnie, be looking for a 6'5", 265 lbs. black armored package in the mail. Ha! Ha!

Sorry to disagree with you Tim, but I think Harrison's changing of the line to "I know" was an improvement. The original struck me as (considering the plight Han was in there) as an empty threat.

By the way, I saw UNDER THE RAINBOW a couple of times as well. Carrie looked great in that role, too.

Ye Ed: I wanted to thank you for the return of the folded format, rather than the cut pages and staples (as in #10). I prefer the usual much more! ((Ed: So do I, but it is also more expensive than the standard and, depending on the old pocketbook, the cut and stapled version may show up more than once in the future.))

Also, I liked the illo of Oola on the page opposite my LoC. Maybe this time you could put one of Leia with my letter. (How's that for leaching, Tim?) I've also some questions about anagrams: is LoC pronounced L-Oh-See or as in lock? Also, Carol Mularski used FIAWOL and FIJAGH. I cannot make heads nor tails of them. ((Ed: People pronounce LoC both ways. I say "lock". "FIAWOL" stands for

"Fandom is a way of life" and is pronounced "FEE-ah-wol". "FIJAGH" is "Fandom is just a goddamned hobby" and I've never met anyone who could pronounce that!))

On a variation of Maggie's musical question, what kind of music would the characters listen to? Han, I pictured blasting CCR over the Falcon's speakers, as well as a lot of 50's rock. Leia strikes me as listening to Art Garfunkel (sorry, Paul) and classical. Luke, I haven't been able to come up with any ideas. Anyone? ((Ed: Maybe a little progressive country? On a related, but different, theme, we once had fun trying to picture what sort of car the characters would drive. Han was easy--a classic '57 Chevy (perhaps a la Bob Falga); Vader would have a wicked black Trans Am (or, alternatively, ride a righteously chopped Harley); Luke would have a dune buggy; Leia, a chauffeured white Lincoln Continental; Obi-Wan, an elegant gray Rolls Royce; and we thought it would be fun to picture Chewie stuffed into a beat-up red VW beetle!))

Kerri Smithline: You've raised a good question on whether clones have souls. I've always wondered whether a clone would share consciousness with the "original" or be its own entity. My own guess is that a clone would be like any other life form, despite its unorthodox creation, and its identical cell structure to the original would not necessarily mean it would not have its own consciousness and soul (all IMHO, though).

Sandi Jones: I may not want novels of the next SW chapters, but I'd trade my 8x10 still collection for a peak at GL's notes. The mental image I get is like the scene in CITIZEN KANE, when Thompson, the reporter, is going through the memoirs of Walter Thatcher.

In response to those who asked for opinions about the EWOKS and DROIDS series, they began well enough and I was happy with their quality, but I rarely watch them now. The first batch of DROIDS was excellent, but others were merely adequate. I do agree with most that they are much better than the standard TV fare.

Mark Hamill's AMAZING STORIES segment, "Gather Ye Acorns" was all right, but rather disappointing. The character did nothing to make his dreams into realities, instead he waited for riches to be handed to him. The story was technically well-executed, but I did not buy its message. The only other episode of the series I've seen (title? It was directed by Spielberg, and concerned a B-17 bomber crew) did not impress me at all. Aside from many gross technical errors, I felt the ending was a cheat on our emotions.

On the question about the "Star Wars" defense system, I hate hearing the title of the Saga associated with the SDI system. They are two entirely different things, and I wish the media would come up with something else.

Back to the droids issue:

Barbara Tennison has some excellent points on the possibility that droids may be self-aware, therefore making them "full persons". Very strong possibilities there. (I'd have mentioned this earlier if I could keep better notes.) On the surface, it appears I am contradicting myself, but I don't think so. There will be NO clear cut answers in this one. I think the questions of whether they have self-awareness/determination and if they have souls are not one in the same.

Pat Easley: I agree that Luke probably had to know he was falling to the Dark (thus the Emperor's

tauntings). Good points! On the "longing" look on Luke's face aboard the Falcon in TESB, my interpretation goes along with yours. You see him ("in part") struggling to reject his father. Mine agrees, but starts with that being where Luke first senses the good side (Anakin) beneath the shell of Vader. A link between them seems to have clearly been established on Bespin, and through this, I see Luke, for the first time, meeting his father. Darth opened the link, but by appealing to Luke as his son, Luke is able to reach back across and discover his father.

Thanks to everyone for another great issue, and apologies to all who I didn't get a chance to address individually. I'd hope to write more, but feared Cheree would cut me off for jumping from being a New LoCer, clear over BNF, and straight to BMF--Big Mouth Fan!

Ozzel A Rebel?

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April 28, 1986

Well, looks like I'm trying for the Under-the-Wire Award this time. But, truly, my tardiness is strictly unintentional--just creeping procrastination.

First, in keeping with my own suggestion a couple issues back, I'd like to mention a fan story which touches on some recent discussion in SE. Carol Hines-Stroede's "And He Is Us", printed in the newest GUARDIAN, does a really nice job of showing the possibility of a "Nuremberg Trial" situation in the New Republic--a subject that has come up in discussion several times since ROTJ. It's a very plausible explanation of how such a situation would occur, as well as how Luke and Leia would react and deal with it. And--even though Vader is dead here, as per mainstream SW--it's a rather nice Vader piece as well. I think it's a story well worth reading for its treatment of the unpleasant political realities attached to revolution.

Now, on to more general comments on last ish's letters.

Mary Keever: For the whole story on the Lucas-film porno flap, I suggest you borrow someone's old issues of JUNDLAND WASTES--as I recall (all too well) ((Ed: Pat was the editor of JW, for those who are new to fandom)), the subject was hashed through to the point of nausea in about three or four or more issues. You'll probably learn more about it than you ever wanted to know.

Matthew Whitney: On the subject of Ozzel--I'm not absolutely sure that incompetency was the only reason that Vader disposed of him. Right after TESB came out, Gordon Carleton (if my memory serves me right) wrote a fascinating vignette (published in WARPED SPACE) postulating that Ozzel was actually a rebel agent. And if you take a look at Ozzel's actions--trying to persuade Vader Hoth isn't worth looking into, bringing out the ships too fast--plus certain facial expressions, that is not such a far-fetched idea. In which case, Vader offed him for being a traitor to the Empire. Not a provable

theory, but I've always been rather fond of it.

Carol Mularski: On the subject of Ben telling Luke about his father. It's not so much the lie I object to--I can see where that was necessary. What I object to is that in ROTJ, Obi-Wan neither apologized nor really explained--he simply rationalized. I think a simple, "I'm sorry, Luke, but this is why we had to lie," would have been more honest and, frankly, more in keeping with Kenobi's personality as we saw it in ANH. This is not a put-down of Ben--he was my first crush when ANH came out--but a wish that that particular section of the ROTJ script had been different.

I'm with you and Sandi Jones about encouraging more people to contribute to zines--and just not as a stepping stone to "pro". I think sometimes in our desire to justify fanzines to the outside world we lean a little hard on the "preparing for pro-dom" aspect--almost making that the only reason for writing fan stories. More important, I think is to write fanfic because it's fun, because you can tell the stories you want to tell without worrying about what's selling this year, as professional fiction writers must. Don't get me wrong--going pro is a great goal, if that's really what you want to do, but I wonder why it seems so unacceptable (to outsiders and sometimes to fans, as well) to write as a hobby, for pure pleasure, rather than just as a means to eventually get money from it. ((Ed: A good point. Personally, I'd love to go pro someday and I feel that I'll know the day when I'm ready. I probably write well enough right now to make a stab at it--heck, I think I write a hell of a lot better than some pro writers...and that goes for a lot of fan writers!--but when I sit down to write a "for sale" story, I freeze up. I can't immerse myself in the story because I'm constantly thinking of what will sell and it shuts off the creative flow. I think a lot of fan writers probably suffer from the same thing.))

Sally Syjala: Liked your idea of Hoth being the Valley Forge of the SW rebellion. But I'm glad our heroes--unlike Washington's men--were apparently well supplied with footwear.

Vonnie Fleming: Enjoyed your remarks about droid personal development. I feel rather divided on the subject myself. Some computer enthusiasts I've spoken with feel that it's impossible to develop a droid with an independent personality such as we've been talking about--the point being that every "decision" made would be based on information fed in by the human programmer, so these decisions would not be those of the droid or computer or whatever, but actually a "by remote" decision of the original programmer. I'm not sure I agree with that--a lot of supposedly "impossible" things (scientifically speaking) have certainly come to pass in the last five decades or so (breaking the sound barrier, for instance), but it is fuel for thought.

Kerri Smithline: I absolutely agree that Luke and Leia's mother could well have been Bail's wife--there's nothing in the film to contradict this (adoption being mentioned in--I think--the non-canon novelization only). That is, in fact, the (as yet unwritten) background in my main SW universe and I noticed an Ellen Randolph story in the most recent GUARDIAN that utilizes that idea, also. The advantage to this (from my point of view as a Leia fan) is that Leia could still be a "born" princess of Alderaan, from her mother's line. ((Ed again--sorry to keep breaking in, Pat. A stray thought that crossed my mind is that it's possible that plural marriage was practiced on Alderaan. Luke and Leia's

mother might have been one of several wives of Bail Organa...or he might have been one of several husbands to her. And Anakin Skywalker might have been another! The possibilities boggle the mind!))

Lin Ward: Well, I can't claim to be an expert, but I'll put in my two cents' about LoCs as a sometime-editor and writer, as well as an occasional LoCer. I definitely don't think you need comment on every submission in a zine--with some (especially in these days of the fat zine) it would take more than than any of us could spare. On criticism: I think it's necessary, but I think it also should be as tactful as humanly possible--most writers I know (including me) are basically very insecure about their abilities, and may well shrivel if you come right out and call their characters cardboard. But I would think only the most touchy could get upset if you said something about wanting to see more thorough character development or something of that sort. However, I'll admit I tend to be cautious about criticism, myself, until I know how the person is going to take it--which is difficult in LoCs.

Carole Regine: I agree with you that Luke seems to have given himself further Jedi education. No fan story that I've seen (and I'll readily say my reading isn't all-inclusive) has dealt with the period between TESB and ROTJ from Luke's pov (or really much of anyone's) and I think it would be very interesting to see what Luke did during this period of time--because it's obvious that the man we see at the beginning of ROTJ is greatly matured over the Luke we see in TESB.

Marlene Karkoska: Good point you have about the lightsaber--though I think it could go either way. Or maybe even one of four ways. It could be a regular piece of hardware that is simply connected by tradition to the Jedi, it could be a weapon that only a Jedi Knight can make (as is suggested by Vader in ROTJ), it could be a weapon only a Jedi could use (as only Arthur can pull Excalibur from the stone in the Arthurian legends) or both of the last two alternatives. Any of these are possibilities, given the facts we're given in the films.

I completely agree on Bespin being a test for Luke in a different way than we had originally assumed--what kind of Jedi would he have been had he abandoned his friends? Personally, I would say Darkside with a vengeance.

I also (rather tentatively) agree with you about there possibly being a limited number of Force talents--at least, from what Lucas has told us. Yoda and Obi-Wan tend to throw around the terms "last Jedi" and "last hope" a lot--not even showing a tremendous amount of interest in Leia. On the other hand, since the Force is supposed to be in everything and everyone, perhaps there are other groups than the Jedi who have developed the ability to use the Force. The Emperor being a rather obvious example--he's mentioned in no one's game plane and may very well be from some other Force-using group. And it's possible that Yoda and Obi-Wan weren't training them because either they don't have the necessary skills to train non-Jedi Force-users or they don't trust non-Jedi Force users for some reason. From what we've been told in the trilogy, it's really difficult to say for sure who or what has the Force. Which is what makes fan fiction fun, since the name of the game there is possibilities.

Cheree: Interesting point you brought up in an editor's note--how did Han get involved with a scum like Jabba? I've only seen one fan written version of this--a very early Zeek story. It would be in-

teresting to see some other versions of how this came about.

Jeanine Hennig: I, too, have very mixed feelings on the bag of worms you cut open in your last letter. I would hate not to write SW fiction and interpret characters the way I myself see them. On the other hand, if someone took one of my own created characters and depicted her having sex with a turnip--well, let's just say I'd be very disturbed. I'm going to be interested to see the comments on this question.

Carolyn Gollledge, Jeannie Webster, and Editor: I can't close without thanking you for the nice things said about my writing. As I said above, writers are perpetually insecure creatures and it's always good to hear that someone is enjoying my work. Thanks.

First Letter

Sheryl Herrly
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April 26, 1986

Whew--I didn't think I was ever going to be able to get this letter typed! We've been rewiring, etc., etc., the whole house, and I simply haven't been able to get near the typewriter until now. I hope this makes it to you in time--but, if not, c'est le vie (I know I'm probably using the wrong article, but I couldn't find my 1st year French book--and besides, I like the sound of the phrase).

Who is Sheryl Herrly, you're probably all asking (no, well, you should be--where's your sense of curiosity?). Right, this is my first letter to SOUTHERN ENCLAVE! I had an earlier sub to SE, let it lag, and now am back in full swing again (school soon to be a thing of the past--at least for a while).

Liz Sharpe's "Clones" article was intriguing and thought-provoking. I never had really pondered the idea of why Luke's hand had been merely a bionic replacement instead of a cloned replica. It seems as if the inherent distaste and philosophical questions concerning cloning may not yet be resolved--something the New Republic had better think about if they don't want the overwhelming pressures from within the Republic infrastructure to crack and crumble again--if, indeed, the clone question was a major stumbling block to the continuation of the Republic.

I'm afraid that I found the interview with Tom Voegeli to be rather boring and redundant. It seemed to cover mostly what is already general knowledge and was plagued with a multitude of "yeahs" and "okays."

The CHALLENGER tragedy left me with a profound feeling of shock and grief and the ultimate hope that we will best honor their deaths by continuing what they believed in.

After reading the articles on pages 16 and 17, I was left with mixed feelings. Certainly I don't

believe that Lucas "owes" us any new chapters, but it does seem as if production and release of subsequent chapters in the SW cycle might help alleviate some of the financial doldrums that he has recently entered.

Would you believe that I had never seen an episode of the Ewok/Droids Saturday morning show until a month ago? I must agree with Michelle Malkin that I believe the show is really above average when it comes to the usual children's fare offered. The Ewoks segment has a certain timeless magic about it; and, combined with what seems to be a consistent overlay of moral ethics, I would certainly welcome it above GI Joe, etc., for a child of mine to watch (if I had one, which I don't). The Droids segment is rather predictable and I can recognize the "punk" aspects that creep in--but the droids' friendship appears true in concept to the movies' portrayal.

Tim Blaes: Carrie Fisher as McCoy's daughter? I can almost see it...but not quite.

Carol Mularski: Media vs. SF fandom rivalry is alive and well here in Arizona, too...unfortunately. I really don't understand it. I first started reading SF when I was 7--the first story I read being "The Martian Way" in case anyone's interested. I fell in love with SF then, but it's been a continuing affair. This has never precluded me from enjoying such media fandoms as ST and SW--and, I see no reason why it legitimately should. ((Ed: Same here. One of my favorite books as a child SPACESHIP UNDER THE APPLE TREE, which I read repeatedly and have been looking for for years. I can picture the illustrations even now, but don't know who wrote it. But it was media sf--OUTER LIMITS, TWILIGHT ZONE, LOST IN SPACE, ST, and every sf movie ever made, no matter how bad--that led me into literary sf in my hunger for more. The first "real" sf book I can remember reading was CITIZEN OF THE GALAXY by Robert Heinlein and I was in the 7th grade. This was pre-ST and I didn't understand a word of it, didn't even know what a "starship" was! But the next year, ST debuted and I re-read it and went absolutely berserk over literary sf; I've been reading it ever since! And, by the way, CITIZEN OF THE GALAXY is still one of my favorite books; I've read it many times and I still enjoy it every time I pick it up.))

Sally Syrjala: Being a "Vader" fan, I enjoyed your premise of Vader as a double agent. Like Luke, I could "feel" the good in him, and your idea gives a sense of legitimacy to that feeling.

Speaking of Vader, my favorite fan conception of him is the series by Hines-Stroede. If anyone else out there is a Vader fan and hasn't discovered her writing yet, you're in for a treat--start searching. It's worth a look.

Vonnie Fleming: Piett was one of my favorite Imperial characters (after Vader, of course). There was a sense of "noblesse oblige" about him. I, too, enjoy reading stories in which he somehow "survives"--and, if anyone is interested, THE SITH YEARBOOK/IMPERIAL ENTANGLEMENT #2 has several good offerings. If we were going to resurrect anyone in the SW universe, he'd get my vote.

Carolyn Gollledge: Concerning the validity of Luke rescuing Leia on the Death Star (and risking the droids falling into Imperial hands), moral reasons aside (but important)--perhaps only she had the proper recognition code (mentioned in SW radio episodes) that would prevent them from being blown out of the sky by the rebels before they could land.

Well, enough said for this issue. Until next issue, fly free in the Force.

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April 28, 1986

Number 11 was the best yet! If the Fan Q Awards don't have a category for letterzines next year, it won't be because I didn't try; and if SOUTHERN ENCLAVE doesn't win, it also won't be because I didn't try!

Conspicuously or not, my letters have been absent for the last several issues of SE. It was not so much a matter of getting in under-the-wire--but of never even getting onto the track in the first place! Now I'm playin' catch-up. A few general comments on the last few issues: I have been very happy to see that the vitriolic tone has calmed down, and that a discussion of the issues and the vagaries of the saga has more or less replaced all the bitchiness and the name-calling. Good! This is where I came in! Specifically in #11, I think most of the writers have returned to the kind of speculation and dialogue that drew me to letterzines in the first place. Not that I don't like controversy; I can just do without all the attacks on people's intelligence, moral character and ancestry!

Another thing I noticed when I read #11: whether coincidentally or not, many of the letters were written January 28. Perhaps we all felt a need to communicate somehow with our fellow fans in the midst of all our pain. I know I was writing a letter when I heard the news about the CHALLENGER shuttle, and I don't think I will ever forget that day. The cover poem was particularly moving; thanks for including it, Cheree.

Now for my random comments:

Jenni Hennig: Hi, Jenni, you old worm-can opener, you! You and I have discussed this "whose fandom is it, anyway?" idea more than a few times, but I'll throw out a few more ideas anyway. Certainly no one can dispute that George Lucas created the original SW characters; and even if some rabid anti-Lucas factions seem to think that they could have come up with Han Solo or Luke Skywalker themselves, sooner or later, the fact remains that they didn't--Lucas did! But, is George "done with" his characters now? If he's lost interest, are they all a little bit more "ours" now? I think incidents like Lucasfilm losing its suit against the use of "Star Wars" to describe the SDI missile system have, in a left-handed, bass-ackwards way, enhanced fandom's grip on the SW characters for our own use. It's what we do with this control that determines, in my mind, the "rightness" of our "custody". Yes, George has kind of left all these guys orphans; we all seem only too glad to take Han and Luke and the gang under our wing--so to speak, of course! (Heh heh heh!) So let's treat them right! I agree, Jenni, that each time one of us writes about one of the SW characters we inevitably imprint them with a bit of our own persona. No matter how tightly we adhere to the canon, no two people's Lukes or Hans are alike (not to mention all the weird deviations that intentionally go on--like Ripley's virgin Han!). I won't repeat a phrase I have so often used in defining our responsibility to our characters' creator when we "borrow" his creations for our own use (it has to do with not mixing one bodily eliminatory function with an ingesting function, and therefore is not suitable for a PG letterzine!). Let's just say that yes, I think we have a "right" to borrow

these guys--but we also have a responsibility to take good care of them and do right by them when we use them. (Okay, Hennig, stop snickering! I know how you'd like to "use" these characters, you pig!) ((Ed: Another stray thought regarding "fan" versions vs. "real" versions of media characters. ST fandom has been around for an awful long time and Strekzines are as numerous as ever, a vast portion of them consisting of the K/S type stories and universe that were created in the hiatus between series and movies. I don't think there has ever been a problem separating all the fan adventures from the "real" stuff seen on the screen, despite the fact that there was a lapse of nearly fifteen years between the TV series and the first movie. Maybe we're making a mountain out of a molehill here regarding SW fan writing, as well. Perhaps, if the first trilogy is ever made, it will be like ST--no matter what we have written, George Lucas' version will always be the Real Thing, just as Gene Roddenberry's ST is Real STAR TREK. And, regarding the use of "Star Wars" in popular terminology, whether Lucas likes it or not, his characters and terms and universe have thoroughly permeated our culture and, despite hard-line copyright laws, there is an element of "popular domain" regarding them. And, after all, didn't Lucas say right off that he had set out to create a new mythos for our generation? So, now that he's succeeded, I don't think he has much room to gripe about it.))

Chris Callahan: Ouch! Point of disagreement! I come to the defense of fantasy fiction! No, I don't write it, but I do read it, and I dispute the assertion that it is "a threat" to SF, and that most of it doesn't encourage its readers to think! Frankly, I find the general run of SF available these days less creative and less inspiring than most of the fantasy. I exclude some of the witches & weirdos stuff, just as I exclude really bad SF; let's just consider halfway good SF and fantasy. People like Davis Eddings and Barbara Hambley write damn good stuff, even if it isn't SF. As for taking the plunge with an unknown author in either genre, frankly I feel a lot more confident taking a chance with a fantasy book than SF. Books like Hambley's DARWATH TRILOGY not only encourage thought, they require it. She raises moral and ethical and perceptual questions that do not magically resolve themselves. So, opinion to opinion, I disagree with you on this one.

Barbara Brayton: I just want to comment on your questions about the Lone Star Con panel with Maureen Garrett, since I was there. (As far as I know, no one got this on tape, did they?) Subsequent events, with the resignation of Ms. Garrett and the virtual dissolution of the OSWFC tend to bear out our conclusions on Lucasfilm and the fans. But I do wish to clarify that at no time did anyone attack Maureen personally. I'm sure she did feel on the defensive, however, since most of the fans were none-too-tactful in voicing their complaints about the way SW fans are treated by the hands that should be feeding them. (Kind of a case of being slapped by the hand that feeds you?) A lack of goodwill was noticeable--on both sides.

Bev Clark: This leads right into your question: What do fans want from Lucasfilm?? After attending tens of cons, and speaking with hundreds of SW fans, I think I can venture an opinion: Respect! Notice I do not say a handout, or a hand in decision-making, or even an acknowledgement of our contribution to the success of the LFL empire. They don't even want gratitude--all they want is some respect! I

realize that this is inherently a non-specific answer; sorry! I think the only way to can try to "specify" it a little is to give you an example of what I personally consider an example of respect. At the WorldCon in LA in 1984, after the Hugo was awarded to ROTJ for best media presentation, and while hundreds of fans were waiting in line for hours to see the first official screening of the SW trilogy, something very "respectful" happened. Howard Kazanjian walked the entire length of that line of fans, carrying the Hugo, stopping to talk, shake hands, and let people take photos. Hype? Crumb-tossing? Perhaps. But the fans really responded: someone gave them a little respect, instead of just whizzing off to the LFL fortress in a limo. In a way, I don't even think anything much has to be done to offer the fans what they want; it is more a question of attitude. It's the way the biggies at LFL act, the things they say, and the things they don't do that have distanced them from the fans in the past. And most fans are still so eager, so willing to believe, that I think it would only take a minute relaxing of Lucasfilm's posture (who's put the iron jockey shorts on most of these guys, anyway??!) for a vast improvement in relations to result.

And, on an unrelated topic, I agree with your proposal that perhaps Yoda really wanted Luke to leave Dagobah and go to Bespin to rescue his friends. I think several fans have advanced this theory, and I know some stories have been written about it. One that comes to mind is Karen Ripley's "One Thing and the Other" in FAR REALMS #7. I honestly can't imagine what kind of man or Jedi Luke could have become if he would not have gone to Bespin, especially since he realized that he was the cause of his friends' torture. And we all know neither Yoda nor Ben have been particularly clear in their motives throughout the saga!

Lin Ward: As both a zine editor and a sporadic LoCer myself, I found your question about the "etiquette" of LoCing very interesting. What etiquette?? No, seriously, I realize that many people find writing an LoC to a zine intimidating. Then there are the people like me, who swear as they read the zine that they are going to LoC it--ha. If it doesn't get done the minute you finish the zine, it seldom gets done at all! I am constantly amazed and thrilled at how many people LoC our zine; I don't know how they find the time and the motivation, but we love them for it!! There is no "right" or "wrong" way to LoC, in my opinion. Even if you just want to write to say that you liked/hated the zine in general; or if you just want to mention a story or two, or some art, that you really loved--that's a LoC (an LoC?). It's not necessary to comment on every story; it's not necessary to only say nice things; it's not necessary to give detailed reasons for your reactions. Some people write to say they hated something and that's it! Fine; how else would we know what our readers want? So, LoC away! There are no rules!

Just one more thing I wanted to throw in, since several people mentioned it. I, too, find I am ambivalent about the controversy about the use of "Star Wars" for SDI and Lucasfilm's suit. On the plus side, I realize that Lucasfilm's loss opens the door another few inches for fandom and zinedom in particular to get our collective feet into the door. But I heartily agree with the spirit of the suit. Whether or not you support Reagan's SDI, and I do not, I deeply resent the use of a term I fondly associate with other things to describe nuclear weapons in space. For that reason, I wish LFL would

have won. Some fans have argued that if I believe we have a "right" to use George's characters, I should therefore agree that the press has the "right" to use the term "Star Wars" for their purposes. Fair enough, I guess. But I still think SDI sucks asteroids and I think the use of "Star Wars" to describe it likewise sucks asteroids! So there!

Jedi Variations

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April 26, 1986

Hello, everyone! Cheree, you may have been late with #10, but believe me, your timing could not have been more perfect! Thank you! I have given up trying to keep my letter short! Sorry.

Liz Sharpe: Now I know what's been keeping you so busy. Your article concerning cloning was so thoughtful and detailed...my feeble mind was left in a mess! There is far too much to cover in one short comment. I agree the need to get rid of Palpatine has probably simply pushed the clone issue into the background. Peace will bring that problem to the fore again, and would renew conflict unless it was very skillfully handled...an interesting story theme.

Linda Deneroff: It seems to me that those comparisons of SW to "every piece of English literature" are not meant so much to prove or disprove the worth of SW, but rather to examine the recurrence in popular stories of easily recognized archetypes, and wonder at our fascination with them and the lessons they represent.

Mary Kever: That makes two of us who want to know about the "Slow Boat to Bespin" incident.

Michelle Malkin: I like your idea that Luke may start a variation on the Old Jedi Order. With his background of being denied access to his natural gifts, Luke will want to see some kind of across the board testing at an early age, the prime objective being self-realization, the second to serve the needs of that species and the Alliance in general. Possible outcomes/methods? (1) "triggering" other espers, (2) initiates sworn to be neutral witnesses, no matter their blood (?) allegiances, (3) some acting as legal representatives to the higher powers, (4) as a last option, enforcement of justice through a warrior code, (5) teachers, (6) sages, who would concern themselves with ethics and inner workings of the system. Thanks for the definition of a secular humanist; sounds like we could use more of that kind of thinking.

Matthew Whitney: I'd love to read IN A FAR AWAY GALAXY. Any idea where I could get a copy? I am not sure that Vader's treatment of Antilles classifies as torture. He died fairly quickly, and Vader seemed barely aware of what he was doing. I don't think Vader expected to get any information from his prisoner (if he did he certainly wasn't using a productive method!). Vader may simply have killed

him in battle lust. Very nasty, but not really torture. Possibly another demonstration to his troops of his immense strength? Vader wouldn't like the sniggering about his ex-Jedi background and belief in the Force. Maybe this kind of demo is his way of silencing his detractors. Ozze! may have been a suspected rebel agent, and I still don't think Needa was dead. If Vader was a blood-thirsty maniac, he would find command decisions difficult and his crews would desert by the shipload.

Tim Blaes: Hey, I like your abridged definition of a secular humanist too. You pinpointed what roused my curiosity with regard to Vader's actions toward the rebel shuttle. He knew who was on board, because Luke felt his presence and vice-versa. Perhaps Vader told Palpatine because he sensed Palpatine had foreseen this event, and would be aware of his betrayal if he didn't inform him. In that sense, Vader wouldn't be giving anything away either.

Carol Mularski: Hey, I admire your writing very much! Like the way you clarified the immense difference between mistake and sin.

Sally Syrrjala: Your thoughts on SF and media fandom were very well expressed and objective. More communication is good advice. I also wonder if Vader did not in fact "save" Solo by freezing him. I'm sure Jabba would have had a lot of "fun" with a highly animated, insulting Corellian. Even if the carbon freeze had killed Han, it could have been a merciful end by comparison. I never could figure out why Vader had to freeze Luke in the first place? Any takers? Seemed like the whole freeze bit was more to cover HF's contractual ambiguity than anything else.

Vonnie Fleming: Well, Von is my good friend, but I think I'm being unbiased when I say her letter contained a wealth of starting points for original thought. Enough to fill an article, and therefore impossible to cover here! Looks like the phone bill's about to skyrocket! Vonnie is being run off her little tootsies by Victoria's version of the slave markets, so she couldn't send a letter this time. She raises the pertinent point concerning droid sentience is not so much its existence but how it could occur. With or without human manipulation? Does this sentience then exist beyond "death", as would (supposedly) a human soul? At what point would a droid become self-aware? Would they all? All human babies normally become self-aware later in life, therefore they are granted the status before they actually achieve it. If not all droids achieve self-awareness, then an individual droid who did so would have great difficulty in claiming sentient status. As for reprogramming being a criteria for judging the lack of sentience, given the correct technology, the human mind could also be "erased" and reprogrammed. It is just as much a physical structure as a "mechanical" brain. Would a human being necessarily become a nonsentient, simply because he has a new response to a certain stimuli?

Kerry Smithline: A thought-provoking idea. I can just picture Palpatine and his coven of cloned Dark Jedi. Shudder time. If this were the case, Palpatine could have had some means of escaping bodily death. Vader would know of this and therefore make sure he did the job properly. If Palpatine was merely a clone or whatever, Vader would surely have informed Luke before he died.

Sally Smith: So where did your fit land?! Hey, at least Jack Nicholson didn't win!

Lin S. Ward: When do we get started on filling

in those gasps and doing our own tape version of ROTJ? I think it's a great idea! Vonnie reckons her "gaps" would be x-rated! (I wonder what George thinks!) As to Luke's going to the Academy, could it have been a neutral pilot training college? Was it ever stated that it was an Imperial facility? Could there be more than one Academy, having various political affiliations?

Oh...my contribution to the literary inheritance of mankind? CLCB turned out to be a fraud. I never signed with them, so NO ESCAPE is now looking for someone else gullible enough, er, genius enough to publish it.

Yes, Luke could easily have been compelled to tell Solo of the Skywalker version of DAYS OF OUR LIVES, while they were searching for Leia. Which brings me back to...could Solo's reaction on the walkway NOT have been jealousy but simply anger that she would not confide in him?

Carole Regine: Yes, self-castigation does seem to be Kenobi's thing. Well stated argument re "when should Luke have been told?".

Marlene K: I feel Luke's relationship to Vader made him the one and only choice. Anyone more "objective" could not have called Anakin back, thus completing the circle, restoring the balance and returning the Jedi.

Maggie N: Thank you for the SW fandom hierarchy. It's very comprehensive. Now who wants to tackle why people fall into opting for those various categories?

Sandi Jones: Congratulations on CLOSE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS!! I love its informal, family feel and the idea of it being an appetizer in between the heavy meals. Thank you.

Good summation of involvement with Jabba not necessarily meaning support for him. I'm sure Solo and other business associates wouldn't have wanted to see, and certainly not revel in, an execution. As for the band, is it possible that they were forced to be there? Jabba didn't take "no" for an answer when he wanted entertainment. ((Ed: Entirely possible. I heard a story recently about a singer who was very well known in the 50's who had started his career during the late 20's working the speakeasies. He played a gig for Al Capone then decided he wanted to move elsewhere. Capone sent a couple of his boys over to talk to him about it, in the process of which they cut off the tip of his tongue to prevent him from working for anyone else. He didn't either--for about 15 years!))

Bev Clark: Enjoyed your summation of reasons for varieties of people who could wind up in the Imperial military and their differing status post-peace. Agree with your description of Leia's flexible position within the Alliance hierarchy. Yes, Solo's rapid promotion also stunned me. Could there have been some of the Alliance Generals, Imperial defectors, who knew details of Solo's military background and possibly family involvement? Solo may also be an ex-Imperial officer. In this instance, his becoming a General is "full circle" for him. Agree that SW fandom is secondary to SW itself. I do not see that Lucasfilm owes us anything other than the right to enjoy his creation and express that enjoyment through fanzines/fandom.

Jeannie Webster: Touching summary of the "reaching out" of father to son and its true depth of meaning (possibly extending into Lucas' private life).

Barbara Brayton: Thanks for the reference to the Aztecs. Of course, you are right. I was looking at it from the POV that the Ewoks intended Solo

as a meal rather than a sacrifice. From a culinary aspect, their preparation seems a little strange, but as a sacrificial offering, it is plausible. But this was not made clear in the film.

Barbara Tennison: Ford and Bridges, me, too, particularly in JAGGED EDGE. Humans v. robots issue, judged by "can and will take responsibility for its actions". That would wipe out some humans!

B. J. Evans: Douglas instead of Ford?! Augh! Good point that if Deckard was a replicant, he was definitely an inferior model, but then Nexus 6 were very advanced. Still the creators of Bladerunners should logically cover that factor.

Chris Callahan: Loved your comments on SF books. Agreed 100%.

Jeanine Hennig: Vonnie wants to know why those undies weren't black! ((Ed: 'Cause they'd mistakenly been put into the "bleach" cycle in the wash!)) No, I don't think the SW characters can be considered ours, not if the essential criteria in our portrayal of them is to keep them "true to character"...a character Lucas created.

Liz Sharpe: (again) Artwork? I've always liked Dunster's. I'll be accused of favoritism, but Dani's is very "real" to me...Rebecca Carey's Lando guarding Han (WOOKIEE COMMODE #2) is superb, as is Carol McPherson's Luke on p. 34, and Karen River is another favorite.

Pat Easley: To me, Ben signals guilt a mile off in that scene in ANH. Reprogramming a droid? See earlier comments.

Lisa Thomas: You've owed me a zine since last September and failed to answer all my letters this year. I'd appreciate it if you pay what you owe in return for SKYWALKER #4.

Cheree: Thank you for the full verse of "High Flight". Many people here wanted to see the rest after Reagan's quote; you made that possible. It brought tears, but this time more of pride than grief.

Fan Writing

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April 28, 1986

Warning--I'm making this up as I go along. This should explain any lapses in coherence.

Linda Deneroff: In the SW universe, I get the impression a "droid" is a mechanical construct capable of independent movement and having some degree of programmed intelligence (it still bothers me to hear a mechanical object called droid rather than robot, but so it goes). As for the question of "rights" for various forms, I vote for rights for "natural" lifeforms and not for "constructed" ones.

Michelle Malkin: Your suggestion as to how Anakin was able to "come back" makes a great deal of sense, psychologically and in terms of the saga. As for the triads you've noticed--is this correspondence maybe one reason why so many Trek fan took to SW so immediately and completely? Not being a Trekker myself, I can only speculate. Why Hoppy and Zorro wore black...hmmmm. Suppose they were

"winters" and wore black because it looked good on them? Hoppy could even be one of the first "blonds in black" (even if his hair was really white; oh, well--it DID look good!). As far your last comment --AMEN!!

Matthew Whitney: Your suggestions about Vader make sense. And how's this addition--Vader is getting impatient and losing his edge--not to mention some self-control. As for Leia on the blockade runner, my personal theory is that she was on official business that would pass Imperial inspection, as a cover for Alliance activity.

Tim Blaes: I always saw the OSWFC as a way to make money and to keep the myriad young fan (the consumers of the films, toys, comics, etc. but not fanzines) both happy and interested with the various paraphernalia--this would also help build an advance audience for other LFL productions. On secular humanism--ONLY Christian dogma? What about all the others? Personally, I chewed up the Christian and spat most of it out many years ago. Your suggested tabloid headline is truly gross, and I'd bet some rag would actually do such a thing if a publisher thought it would sell more copies! THANK YOU for the info on the Bloom County Fan Club!!

Carol Mularski: Thank you very much for dealing with that zine fan as you did. Personally, I never had any ambition to write professionally, and I consider myself a mediocre fan writer, but the experience has been invaluable in terms of personal growth and development. Putting down fan writing as "stunting" and otherwise unworthy of a person who has some creative ability has never made any sense to me, and it never will. Maybe it's an outgrowth of the overall attitude that anything done for money is good, anything done for love (or fun) is not (rather like the attitude that still prevails, that women's work in the home is worthless because it isn't paid, and that any job done primarily by women can't be worth much socially because it's low-paid--of course, there's the vicious circle problem here, too, but that's something else).

Sally Syrjala: Re ripoff films, have you seen ENEMY MINE? The last quarter or so of the film (NOT the novelization--that was fine!) was a blatant ripoff of ROTLA and TOD. And ruined the film for me besides, because it was such a total (and totally unnecessary) break with the rest of the film. The end of the novelization, based on earlier scripts, was far superior, and would have made EM one of the best sf films around.

Vonnie Fleming: I'm with you on droids. I like your theory about the "link" between Luke and Vader. And it would help explain why Vader didn't recognize Leia: ignorance on BOTH sides prevents a link from EITHER direction. Also agree with you about keeping Han separate from the family. Interesting idea about Luke's hand giving him trouble. Maybe the Emperor does something to prosthetic devices as a control, and this is how he's managed to keep Vader so subservient all this time.

Lin Ward: I tend toward the idea that Vader hoped for another chance at Luke and so let the shuttle land--after all, Vader's not going to give up easily, especially this close to the end! No, you're not the only one who hasn't seen LADYHAWKE--I haven't either. Liked the book.

Carole Regine: I agree with you about Yoda and Ben making mistakes rather than being malicious. After all, they'd both made big ones in the past! As for why the Emperor was so stupid as to turn his back on Vader--I think it shows his arrogance, making him overconfident that he still had Vader on a

short leash even after betrayal.

Marlene Karkoska: Re Han and the lightsaber--
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Maggie Nowakowska: Han finding Steve Martin standing outside the ship? What a gruesome idea! And yes, if you HAD to work in a cousin Han would hate to find, it'd be hard to come up with a better candidate for the part! Your chart of fannish interests is marvelous, a model of clarity and condensation. You should try to get it printed in all letterzines periodically! And I like your explanation of the virgin/power user idea. It certainly makes a lot more sense than a lot of the explanations I've seen, in fiction and out!

Carolyn Gollledge: I got the impression the Rebels didn't know about the Ewoks. And the novel does state that it was 3PO who got the Ewoks to join the battle.

Bev Clark: You've got some good story ideas in your speculations about the Empire's image in a generation or so. Just look at Vietnam for ways of seeing an unpleasant episode. As for what fans want from Lucasfilm--personally, what I want is recognition that we appreciate his work a great deal, enough to want to go into it in more depth even if he himself just wants to make action movies. We're COMPLIMENTING him!!! Though I've never been a Trek fan, I do think Gene Roddenberry has been much more gracious in accepting compliments than Lucas has been, and I salute him for that. And I want more films IF Lucas has solid ideas for them and real interest in doing them properly. What I DON'T want is something thrown together to capitalize on the interest of the fen but without the integrity--and love--that went into the trilogy. No more films at all would be preferable to that.

B. J. Evans: Good point about Deckard not being a very good model. Apparently Scott, et al, didn't consider this. However, is it possible he's an experimental model like Rachel, and lacks the usual strength (the replicants were designed to work under harsh conditions, remember) to make him better able to pass on Earth? If he's supposed to think he's human, he'd have to have no more than believable strength for a man his age, training, etc. I can imagine Tyrell planning a line of replicants for Earth use and setting out a couple as experiments to see how well they pass and yet do whatever job they're supposed to do.

Cheree: Love the cartoon at the bottom of page 55! Thank you for your news items and for the tributes to the CHALLENGER 7. I saw in the paper yesterday that seven asteroids have been named for them. The news that the cabin survived the blast is in a way good--it should encourage NASA to work out an escape system in spite of the problems of weights, etc. cited as reasons for not including one. Even if in this case it couldn't have been used (or, if automatic, would have only preserved the bodies because they died in the initial blast), it could save future astronauts. We know the cabin is stronger than expected, now it's time for NASA to take advantage of that fact.

Liz Sharpe: Your article on clones is fascinating and well thought out, as usual. I like some of your points about the pre-Collapse Jedi, such as that though well-trained in morals and ethics, they may not all make the same use of this training. The idea that they might have been largely a placebo is something I've never seen before, and very interesting. Your theories about the view of them taken by average citizens makes sense, and this is the first time I think I've seen several common sense ideas

laid out together like this. As for the question of "natural rights" and who has them, this is an old question in sf, along with the idea of clones. For some various viewpoints, check out Kate Wilhelm's WHERE LATE THE SWEET BIRDS SANG, Pamela Sargent's CLONED LIVES, a lot of John Varley's short fiction. As for the lack of biological repairs, the idea that the necessary skills have been lost makes sense. Altogether, the article is well written, logical and consistent with the films. Well done!

Zine fen have successfully united--UNIVERSAL TRANSLATOR is on the ballot for the Hugo for Best Fanzine! Now can we stay united long enough to stuff the final ballot box? If this comes out in time, and you haven't voted yet, vote for UT for 1st place. (Carol, I hope your "correspondent" in zinedom knows what UT is and can eat his heart out!)

Airing Linen in Public

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April 25, 1986

Oh, dear, I'm so late with this! And I missed last time totally! But with moving and all, I've got some popular excuses, anyway!

I love the new logo. "High Flight" in memory of the CHALLENGER was beautiful. I appreciated the articles on this disaster that was so close to all of us, but especially "Challenger in Perspective", because this author says exactly what I feel, and tried to express to those in my circle at home who cried that the space program should be stopped. ((Ed: I felt the same way. In fact, I still cry each time I read this article. A few days after the explosion, my husband, knowing my years-long support of the space program, looked at me with a touch of skepticism and said, "Would you get on the next one?" With all my heart I answered, "In a minute! Oh, yes! In a minute!")

I enjoyed Liz's Clones article. I can't help admiring an author when they can present a historical background that is plausible from only a few sentences in a movie or book.

Ahem, "The PRIVATE Life of a Jedi". Well, Jenni, at least when you air your linen in public, they're sexy ones! (Hee)

I enjoy the pictures of other fen and so on that you print very much. I really got a kick out of the Jedi Security truck! The articles on GL were interesting also.

Mary Keever: I love Luke's black glove!

Michelle Malkin: Agree with you that GL could learn about fan relations from Gene Roddenberry. The man's wonderful, that's all there is to it! And if you stopped being a BNF, I sure didn't know it! So there!

Matthew Whitney: Liked the comment from Sagan's book. It describes the "hidden dialogue" thing perfectly.

Tim Blaes: "Rudolf Found in Meat Locker"?? Alright, how 'bout "Ronald McDonald Confirmed Vegetarian"?

Sally Syrjala: Good, someone who's willing to point out that Vader did several good things as well as evil in the trilogy. Everyone talks of wanting to know who Luke and Leia's mother is, but here's one who wants to know much more about their father! He's a complicated character, even more so to me than Luke, because we see why Luke reacts as he does through the movies, but we're left guessing even to the end of ROTJ, as to Anakin/Vader's motivations. Please, Saint George, make the First Trilogy!

Vonnie Fleming: Liked your comments on "the tily-white image of the Alliance". I also recommend SITH YEARBOOK as a zine that shows "the other side" in great stories and poems. I think the recent Libya events show this point up well. I keep comparing this with the Alliance and the Empire. Now, I don't want to get into a raging discussion on Libya. I just want to point out that, what Libyans see and hear is controlled by their leaders, as is also what we see. They call themselves "freedom fighters", the USA calls them "terrorists". Well, the Alliance and the Empire are the same to me. Another author who shows this up very very well is Carol Hines-Stroede. Her story in GUARDIAN 7 "And He Is Us" really brings this point across in connection with Luke and Vader.

Your points on Vader were good, and I agree.

Kerry Smithline: You're right; as Leia said to Han on the Falcon as they raced toward Yavin, "It's not over yet." The Empire was pretty big and I'm sure there are lots of other "Moff Tarkins" running around thinking, "Oh, boy, now that Hot Hands and Death Breath are gone, here's my big chance!"

Sally Smith: Thanks for being nice about my art. As I've said, Eds who write back to say, "Sorry" don't bother me, there's lots of reasons why, like the zine's full or it's not a piece that fits any of the stories, etc. It's just the ones that never answer that irritate me, and there's not too many of them.

Lin Ward: I'm a Who fan, too, and my next plate's gonna say "Who Dat".

Carole Regine: Great, another who admits Vader as a first draw to SW! Yes, that little bit ol' OB (at times I call him ol' BO, I get tired of him only telling what he wants and skipping the rest!) is very tantalizing! How Anakin re-acts to OB and Yoda and they to him on the next plane is a story I keep looking for! (hint, hint, you authors)

Marlene Karkoska: Actually, I'm a rabid Spock fan who's also a rabid Vader fan. Anyone figure that out?

Maggie N: Got a kick out of your "Fan-ly Tree."

Carolyn G: Hi there! Hope you got a copy of A NEW CHALLENGE by Ellen Randolph. It's great (can hardly wait for REVENGE OF THE SITH). I'm quite looking forward to your next stories, too!

Sandi J: Uh-huh! I'm sure I did all that talking during our "marathon" phone calls! Yep, it's Luke's story alright, but just think of this, no Vader, no Luke! So, be grateful, all you drooling Luke fans! (hee)

Bev Clark: I do so enjoy your letters; they give me the kick in the necessary area to go read some more and improve my mind (the Dr's bill for uncrossing my eyes is on its way to you!). (snicker)

Jenni H: Big Mouth Fan! Oh, boy, I l-o-o-v-e it! STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND is my favorite Heinlein book, so it can't be yours!! (See, I'm already a BMF!) As for your question, "Did anyone catch Mark Hamill on AMAZING STORIES?", go ask Sandi Jones. She'll catch Mark any way she can! (Ha, got

you, Sandi!!)

Liz Sharpe: First, I must say I was very pleased with your comments on my art, and with the company you put me in. Now, I will say that your story "Command Performance" is one of my favorite stories of 1985 (in SOUTHERN KNIGHTS I). Han and Leia are great, and Luke's just plain wonderful! The only problem with this is that now many of us will band together and lynch you if more stories don't appear soon! This is known as having a fan, so there!

Pat Easley: Hi! I'm not "post-30", I'm "under 100". Sounds better!

Last comments: I also like Judith's logo for "Mos Eisley Marketplace" and the cartoon on page 55 is great! To those I missed, hi, I liked your letters, too, but my hands (and my brain) are hurting, so I'll catch ya next time.

Media Portrayal of Fans

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April 25, 1986

During the 13 years I've been in fandom, I've heard many a fan complain about the way the news media portrays us. Let's examine this for a moment. When the first ST film came out, I and a few friends got in line at the theater early in the morning for the first showing, as did at least 100 other local fans. Everyone I could see in the line looked pretty "ordinary". That is, their (and our) dress was pretty mundane. There were no outstanding "weirdos". There were, however, two girls next to us. There were giggling loudly and wearing antennae. Now there's nothing wrong with giggling, being young or wearing antennae. But unfortunately, the media and the general public do tend to have certain prejudices. Suddenly a truck from Action News pulled up in front of the theater. Out came a reporter and two cameramen with their equipment. The reporter, a woman, mike in hand, came up to the line with a rather condescending expression and manner (everyone noticed it). Glancing at each person in line as she passed, she was obviously looking for something. She finally stopped. Where? Right in front of the two antennaeed gigglers, whereupon she set out to interview them. So. In a line of at least 100 people with undistinguishing, unsensationalistic features, she chose these two girls to represent us to the general public. Now maybe these two girls were perfectly nice, bright people, but the reporter's manner and questions did not let them show it. Many of us in fandom have seen this happen many times. So just exactly why do some of us get upset at this? Because the media, in their cynical, selective approach to coverage of fans, are basically prejudiced, as is much of mainstream society (those who know we exist, i.e.). The media are wholly ignorant about fandom. And they make no attempt to learn more about us, because (a) the way the system works, in-depth investigation and prior research are not the backbone of mainstream journalism--they are the exception to the rule. Indeed,

in the past few years former members of the media establishment have written volumes on the death of investigative, non-ideological journalism. Woodward and Bernstein were rarities, even in the late 70's; and (b) reporters in general are so sure of their assumptions about us (as they are about virtually everything they report), that they feel there's no need to understand the context of fandom. We of course have no input into how we are represented to the public (and by that I mean input, not control). So that what the public views is generally not truly us, but a filtered, distorted view, a caricature. That doesn't mean that there aren't "weirdos" in fandom, since (as Tim Blaes said) every stereotype has some truth, else it wouldn't work. What it does mean is that (and this is most important) the media don't generally pay attention to fans (we're hardly front page news), but when they do, their coverage is so distorted, so selective, and so unrepresentative, that many of us would prefer no coverage at all. (At a Philcon a couple of years ago, I saw a huge audience at the costume call reject TV coverage of themselves by shouting a reporter and two cameramen out of the room because they were generally being obnoxious. The attitude expressed by many fans in the room was, "They always treat us like creeps, anyway.") When we see a newspaper story or a TV report that breaks this pattern, we feel surprise and delight. Why? Because we want what everyone wants: respect. And thereby hangs a tale of stereotypes. Fans are understandably sensitive. But so are many other groups. Asians, Latin Americans, Arabs (as in BACK TO THE FUTURE's crazed Libyans), etc., are portrayed on film and TV in stereotypical situations. They are never thought of in ordinary circumstances. If, for instance, that reporter had at least (as a matter of course) interviewed other people as well as those two girls, then that would constitute fairer coverage. Instead, she instinctively zeroed in on the two girls and deliberately excluded out the majority. Because that's the basic problem: ignorance of context and complexity. A consequence of this is hostility towards the media, and often that hostility becomes extreme. But you see, mainstream journalism and popular art works so well because it is easier to distort and simplify. Not only for the media themselves, but for the audience, who generally want quick, simplistic descriptions and characterizations.

I'm aware of the article Bev Clark mentioned re A PASSAGE TO INDIA. Certainly the author was correct in condemning the latter more than TOD. A recent series of conferences held at the University of Pennsylvania sponsored by the School of Communications and the Departments of Anthropology, Sociology, History and Political Science examined popular characterizations of labor, Third World peoples, women, as well as the kind of general themes prevalent in films and TV during the Reagan era (something fan don't generally consider--that films and TV shows are rooted in the particular historical moment. TOD is definitely a Reagan-era film, as is BACK TO THE FUTURE, WARGAMES, etc., etc. SW itself could not have come out in the 60's or early 70's, and if it had, it probably would have bombed.) Social scientists and filmmakers from all over the world were there. Some of the bigger names were John Sayles, Haskell Wexler, Peter Weir, and Costa-Gravas (makers of THE BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET, LATINO, WITNESS and MISSING, respectively). Two of the most interesting discussions were about the evolution (some called it a regression) of Sylvester

Stallone from his late 70's FIST (a box-office bomb, but praised as a mature exploration into American labor) to blatantly pandering films like RAMBO and COBRA, and a panel entitled "The Phenomena of George Lucas and Steven Spielberg", which I think many fans familiar with film analysis would have enjoyed. The discussion about recent films made in the Third World (TOD, GANDHI, PASSAGE TO INDIA, OUT OF AFRICA, ROMANCING THE STONE, and a lot more) appropriately consigned TOD as just another repeat of the 30's--50's characterizations, demonstrating how little has changed since then, and placed far more emphasis on more "serious" films like OUT OF AFRICA. Even while condemning, though, most participants said TOD's entertainment value was above reproach, and that its first half hour is probably one of the most (some said the most) exciting and exhausting moments in American film.

Tim Blaes: You make the chronic error of thinking sensitivity to racial/cultural characterizations means an unwillingness to tolerate negative portrayals of individual members or groups within a race or culture. The point is that the vast majority (if not 100%) of such characterizations are very few, and extremely skewed and unrepresentative when they exist. Your assumption that you know more about Colombia than a Colombian is incredible --in the literal sense of that word. Excepting a few British and Australian productions on public TV, Americans aren't exposed to any culture but their own. Colombians see U.S. TV and films, hear U.S. music, read U.S. literature, and buy U.S. products. Now certainly TV shows like I LOVE LUCY are hardly a complete picture of American society, but, as you said, aren't stereotypes based on some truth? And such stereotypical shows are, after all, made by Americans so we can only blame our own media. Third World societies, on the other hand, have no worldwide monopoly on film and TV distribution, so the world gets a view of such places not from the "horse's mouth" but from the distorted images inhabiting the minds of the American mass media.

Your comments on the US press demonstrates so well the results of a recent Gallup poll that states "There is no credibility crisis for the nation's media, because the great majority of Americans have a high opinion of newspapers, radio, television, and news magazines. The most vociferous critics of the media make up only 5 percent of the population --the best informed 5 percent." I could recommend studies, books, names, give you plenty of concrete examples where the media has outright lied, distorted and committed gross sins of omission--many criticisms come straight from the establishment press, as well as hundreds of journalism and communications departments throughout the country. The mainstream US press is simply not well respected worldwide. You can see it when you go on junkets with journalistic delegations to other countries. American reporters from the mainstream press (TIME, NEWSWEEK, NY TIMES, WASHINGTON POST, etc.) usually are the least informed, the most arrogant, and ask the worst questions. The worst are the people from CBS, NBC and ABC. While in Central America last summer, I saw how they mainly hung out in the hotels poolside and filed stories totally dependent on the US embassies while foreign journalists and American reporters/writers who don't work for the big name news agencies risked their lives, investigated accusations for themselves, and went to sources never mentioned in the US mainstream news. Several journalistic research think tanks in the US often publish what is called "Project Censored", an annual

rundown of the year's most ignored stories that got big press elsewhere (mainly in Europe, Latin America, Canada and the small press in the U.S.). Each year, the number of big stories that were totally ignored by the mainstream has grown larger and larger. And these stories are extremely germane to US foreign policy and domestic policy. There's no conscious conspiracy. It's just that the mainstream press' two biggest weaknesses--the cult of objectivity (which Tim faithfully parrots) and the profit motive get in the way. The Right's accusations about the press being liberal are generally correct--most journalists are moderates and slightly left of center. There's nothing wrong with being left or right or moderate or whatever. The problem comes when a press believes that it does not have its own prejudices, and purports to be a storehouse of "objective truth", because there is no such thing. I sometimes watch CBS and often read the NY Times and the local Philly paper, but not as my main source. You can't use the mass media as your major source of news because they explain nothing. No press can explain everything. But every press should readily, upfront admit its ideological leanings. There's nothing wrong in that. It's more honest, and helps the reader/viewer to understand where that particular press-organ stands. The Right says it wants the press to be more "balanced". Of course, what it means is that it wants the press to express its own views. Media researchers like Herbert Schiller, Erik Barnouw, reporters like Ray Bonner and Alan Riding, et al, simply want to eliminate this myth of objectivity and have the media be more honest about itself. Too many times there have been good reporters who have slowly learned that in-depth investigation and refutation of official government accusations are not rewarded. What happens (and this is consistent policy, not deviations) is that their stories usually get rewritten to "tone them down". So they deliberately file their stories "toned down" because they know that if they report what really happened, there's not much chance it will get published. This is why there's so much turnover as well as so much cynicism on the part of American mainstream journalists. There's an entire system of political patronage in D.C., for instance, that directly impinges on what the public reads, sees and hears. Of course, as journalist Arthur Miller (not the playwright) has said, "My own experience with the American big press has shown me that while all our informed criticism of it is based on an understanding of political and historical complexities, none of that reality is desired by the general public. Does the public want to be fully informed? With some individual exceptions, most just want to keep being confused." Quotations from PRAVDA are hardly sophisticated criteria for judging the merits of any press. The fact is that in annual surveys conducted both by researchers and mainstream news agencies themselves, in comparison to other Western industrialized nations, the American public is the most poorly informed. If you want specific documentation--write me privately. I've got a library full. I've gone on long enough.

I'd like to thank everyone who had good things to say about my article, and also Mary Schmidt a couple of issues back for complimenting me on my reviews. I don't know if she was altogether right in her assessment, because there have been reviews I've written that I wish had never seen print. But we live and learn. Liz Sharpe's article was excellent. A few comments: the article inherently accepts pro-Republican ideology. Fair enough. What

struck me was the direct identification of the Jedi as the crucial mechanism by which the Republic "worked." I am inherently suspicious of the OR as described by Liz. As she said, under normal circumstances, such a galactic government would be an improbable entity. I would go so far as to say it would be impossible. Even under the Empire, there is plenty of evidence that the galaxy was not under control (never mind tight control). I would also say that any centralized system such as the OR which, no matter how well-intentioned, tried to bring together such a disparate galaxy is inherently undemocratic (although to what degree is problematical, depending on the context). BUT--there was the Jedi. If Liz is correct, then, the Jedi were able to minimize this, and for an inordinately long time. How? The answer lies in understanding the very make up of the Jedi Order itself. The Knights were successful because of their Force abilities, as Liz indicates. If the Force is the very essence of all life, then the Jedi were much closer to the "truth" than any other enforcement body imaginable. But injustice--that is, the Dark--is just as "true" as justice. And if a Jedi turned wholly to the Dark, he or she could be responsible for horrendous abuses, being granted so much power by the Republican government. My question: what mechanism, if any, did the Jedi have to prevent Darksiders within their ranks? The survival of the OR hinged on the continued strength and goodness of the Jedi. What, for so many years, maintained that?

Also, every system changes, nothing remains static. To expect the Republic to last forever (just as the Alliance expects the New Republic to go on forever) is naive. Assuming the truth of Liz's interpretation of the clone wars for a moment, if it hadn't been clones, it would have been something else eventually. My guess is that ultimately the OR just became too cumbersome and unwieldy. And also, following GL's "corruption from within" model, as it grew, its ability to represent constituents became extremely limited. And that definitely relates to the Jedi. If enforcement of fair representation was one of the Jedi's duties, then the OR's ultimate loss of that ability may have been a result of some weakness with the Jedi. This could have stemmed from the clone controversy--but Liz is unclear as to how long she thinks that debate went on. She also characterizes it solely as a political danger, a "debate." Wars get started when something endangers material conditions. I don't know exactly how she envisions the clone debate, but I would see it this way: clones were introduced as a breakthrough as a labor-saving device, increasing efficiency, output. They may even have been considered as a police force. The implications of all this gradually came to be felt. This, coupled with the scenario Liz paints in her article, together would have formed the causes of the clone wars. But this would have been going on for decades at least. Ancient governments don't fall that easily.

The problem I have with Liz's article is that she characterizes to OR's enemies merely as "malcontents", troublemakers, without legitimate complaints or aims. That's political caricature. The basic problem is that the OR simply lasted too long. There came a point when it began to stagnate. When systems begin to stagnate, they are resistant to change, which creates violent opposition and overthrow, and often a very undemocratic replacement. A larger problem (not in Liz's article) is the assumption that it is possible to restore the past. Some-

one in the last issue asked how future generations would view the Empire. Often future generations think of past systems in caricature. Thus the Alliance's idealized image of the OR, in contrast to its image of the "horrible" present, the Empire. Doubtless historians of the future will wrangle it out. One thing historians are good at is demonstrating continuity, so that the foundations of the Empire were laid in the OR, just as the foundations of the New Republic were laid in the Empire. The Alliance may want to restore the OR, but it will find that an impossible task. You can't change history--and you can't ignore the fact of the Empire.

Comparisons

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April 28, 1986

The deadline is rapidly approaching for SE#12 and no words have yet to be set upon the chopping block for inclusion within its pages. Therefore, it seems tonight is the night to remedy such short fallings.

Linda Deneroff brings up the topic of comparisons. I know that I make comparisons with the SW trilogy to help to locate the common thread which runs through all things. SW used in this way can almost be looked at as a mantra of sorts. If you concentrate on it long enough, it might just reveal some basic universal for which we all seek. Literally nothing stands truly all on its own. All things are interconnected with each other and different experiences have an effect on people and events down the line which might not be recognized as being unless looked at in depth.

In this light, I see the learning of history as a way to try to bring current events into focus. For all are part of the same common fabric. Trying to determine the pattern it all creates is the challenge. Trying to meet that challenge is one of the reasons I like to compare SW with other entities. No man or event or thing is an island to its own self. We and all else are somehow interwoven into the same reality and we all affect one another. To try to understand that reality which we share, it helps us to understand in what manner we are linked to one another. After all, "It's the fundamental things of life!"

Then the question of what makes beings "eligible" for rights. To me a being is "eligible" for such things simply because they are. Then the problem becomes one of determining what makes a being a being. Would artificial intelligence be called sentient? And when does that "artificial" quality become "natural"? Would the ability to think and act on the thoughts so created constitute a being? Would it get down to if a being had a soul? Who would then define soul and what would it constitute? Ah, the questions of theology which technology is inventing!

Michelle Malkin brings up the point of Anakin being "tricked" into evil. Again, the theme of "from a certain point of view" can come into play. Anakin could have thought that he was taking the only path which would lead to peace within the galaxy. It could be that originally the Emperor also was motivated by thoughts of "good", but was corrupted by the power which was wielded. This power could have blinded them to the way which they originally sought and shed darkness over the entire scheme of things.

The views on the various ST characters as compared with the SW ones were interesting. It all goes to show how we incorporate our own feelings and views into the characters and how they take on subtle differences under the interpretations of those views.

Bev Clark brings up the question of what fans want from Lucasfilm. "Respect" may be but an abstract and not specific, but it is the prime ingredient which Lucasfilm lacks.

It can be said to exhibit many small forms which, when taken as a whole, comprise the nebulous creature we are seeking in the essence of respect.

A simple element such as allowing others to exist can be brought to play in this equation.

Too, Lucasfilm is representative of the Empire in the manner in which it tried to "rule" the fans. It tries to control them and lead them on the Lucasfilm Fundamentalist path. It is a statement of "my way or no way". This strikes me as antagonistic and egotistical.

We all have our own ideas on how we wish to express our interest in a particular subject matter. Story ideas are not something which can be channeled into one passage way only. They flow of their own accord in all directions. Ideas are like that. Once released, they have a life of their own. They refuse to stay confined to a narrow field, but seek to roam the stars and find their own place in the scheme of things.

Lucasfilm tries to restrict this flow of ideas. They treat the fan in a condescending manner. A pat on the head for "the good little child" is how I see their concept of fandom.

Indeed, Gene Roddenberry has treated ST fandom in a much different manner. He has far more respect for the fans. He seeks their input and listens to their ideas. He knows that fandom is a compliment to both him and his creation, not a threat. He is secure enough to realize this and the fact that fandom can be a definite aid to him.

Fandom is the experimental laboratory for ideas for a continuation of the product.

If Lucasfilm cannot grasp the concept that we exist simply of and by ourselves and for no other sinister reason, it is sad. We simply seek to extrapolate upon the ideas which have been put into motion through the SW films.

Lucasfilm has taken on the image of the Empire. It represents something which is ruled from on high by beings who find mingling with the common people to be something repugnant to them. One can imagine the remark "Let them eat cake" coming from their mouths. They would as soon see fandom squashed as anything.

Far better if they realized the potential in fandom for a continuing market base for their product.

Too, fandom is a good public relations sector. Here are all these people pushing the SW product for love and not money. There are not many products which can boast of such a thing! Such an asset

should be capitalized upon and not treated with the contemptuous indifference which Lucasfilm exhibits.

Respect is an abstract quality and as such it is difficult to pin such a concept to mere words. However, a lack of respect takes on the form of many small things such as writing down to people in the Lucasfilm Club Newsletter, considering fans to be something to be merely tolerated at best, but more to the liking of Lucasfilm, terminated.

These are a few of the things which have led me to an image of Lucasfilm as an unfeeling empire that cares naught for the people who made it what it is--the fans.

Well, this night has nearly made it into the next morning. Therefore, these words need to be put to bed! For now...PEACE--It's Disarming!

Don't Drink and Drive

Carol Peters
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April 15, 1986

I have a couple of things that have been bouncing around in my head for a while. I saw EMPIRE before I saw STAR WARS and ever since then one thing has bothered me. When Han is leaving the cave to go find Luke, one of the rebels warns that he will freeze before he reaches the first marker and Han replies, "Then I'll see you in hell." Then in STAR WARS, Owen makes a reference to hell also. Has anyone else been wondering what hell, where hell, whose hell? These are the only two references to hell that I have come across but it intrigues me as to what others think or read into these mentions of hell.

The other thing I would like to hear some ideas, thoughts or rumblings on is also from EMPIRE. What do you think was the significance of Luke seeing his own face when the severed helmet cracks open in the cave? Do you think Luke saw it as an omen that he might become as evil as Vader? Maybe he was fighting himself. Or what???

Cheree, this last bit is on a dark note but I hope you will find it worthy of print. If any of you reading this thinks that they can have a drink or two then drive, I hope that you DON'T do it. I have just spent the last year in and out of the hospital while the doctors tried to put me back together, all because of a man who only had two beers after work before he drove home. It has been the worst time of my life. I lost my marriage and almost lost my life because of a drinking driver. PLEASE DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE! ((Ed: Drinking and driving is the leading cause of death in America today, yet those drivers are given light sentences or sometimes set free by indulgent judges and juries. Meanwhile, the victims of drunk drivers lie in graves or hospital beds, and families and lives are shattered, with no recompense at hand. It's time to let our lawmakers know that we've had all we're going to take. Contact your local chapter of M.A.D.D. to find out what you can do!))



Michelle Malkin
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April 29, 1986

I hope that this letter makes it in time. I'd hate to wreck a perfect record. This is the very first letter I'm writing from my brand new address all of five blocks away from the old one. After living at my old place for 12 years, it's taking some adjusting to get used to this one, but the improvements make it all worthwhile (like a postage stamp-sized room I call my "library").

I'm so glad that you chose the poem "High Flight" to commemorate the CHALLENGER Seven astronauts. This has been a favorite poem of mine ever since I first heard it in an Air Force commercial. Before, I've always felt like crying simply from the beauty of this piece and the knowledge that I would never achieve the feeling of the pilot who wrote it; now, I do cry for the seven who died trying to achieve their goals. They tried, and my heart goes out to them and the ones who will follow, as I know they must and will.

Liz Sharpe's article on clones was interesting and well thought out, as her articles always are. Her point about the Old Republic's downfall being caused by something as "simple" as progress is a good one. After all, look at what educating the masses did to the old aristocracy right here on Earth. The Industrial Revolution caused a mass movement of population from the country to the city which still hasn't entirely stopped after nearly two centuries. The effect of such movements on religious, philosophical and political thought is immense. I imagine the creation of cloned slaves would have the same effect on such thought in its effect on both the labor market and ideas of morality.

Jenni: Didn't you forget the "s" at the end of the second word in your article's title? Tsk.

Linda Deneroff: People compare the SW trilogy to Arthurian legend or Doc Smith or whatever because it's fun to imagine its roots. We all know that GL is fascinated by history, mythology, philosophy and

old movies (gods, he almost sounds like most fen), and this shows up in his SW movies. No one is saying that the trilogy isn't capable of standing on its own because of such comparisons. They're just having fun. (STAR TREK is almost a direct steal from Doc Smith, but who cares. It's what Roddenberry did with ST and what GL did with SW that counts.)

Mary Keever: First of all, I am very jealous that you have a Luke doll. A friend and I raced each other to a huckster table selling the very last Luke doll I've ever seen on sale. I lost. Sigh. Does anyone know where I can buy a Luke doll without having to give up my life savings? Hmmm, good idea about Jedi children being trained from even before birth. Hopefully, once the new Jedi (or whatever they call themselves) are established, anyone who wants to will be able to have their child, pre-natal or otherwise, screened for possible training. About the "Slow Boat to Bespin" incident. You missed the entire Lucasfilm flak incident! This was when either GL or some representatives possibly speaking in his name (it was never made entirely clear) tried to tell SW writers the kind of stories they could or couldn't write. The stories in question had a little bit of what might be called graphic sex in them (one of them, anyway). Someone at LFL read them and flipped. (Actually, this was caused by a totally graphic Swedish story that was written for the express purpose of upsetting people. Writers in the USA suffered as a result of a copy of this story, "The True Force", having been sent to LFL just before "Slow Boat" came out.) Anyway, the results of all this was that several fen ended up at each other's throats over whether or not we had the right to write the kind of material GL or LFL might object to. The matter was never settled. Two major results of this was that a lot of people became scared to write stories that they might have, while others simply got angry and told LFL where to get off (I'm in the latter group). "The Holy Sisters of Luke's Black Glove"? I love it!! Just like Michael Jackson's fans wore jeweled gloves on one hand, Luke's fans can wear one black glove! Hah!

Michelle Malkin: Did you really say in your response to Lin Ward on page 21, halfway down the second paragraph that Luke was aware of his psychic abilities? No, no, no, Michelle! He was unaware of them until Ben took him under his wing and started to train him. Shame on you! (Don't hit me, Cheree. I talk to myself all the time. As long as I don't answer...)

Matthew Whitney: The kind of peer pressure men have to put up with when they stay in media fandom past a certain age sounds just like the kind of pressure women are still being faced with when they decide to be sf fen at all no matter what their age. At least it isn't nearly as bad now as it was when I was growing up. Hopefully someday some people will learn to stop looking down on other peoples' interests for sexist or any other kind of reasons. ((Ed: Now, if I could only get my mother to stop telling me I had to give up my "books" and scrub my toilet instead! Sheesh--some people need to get their priorities straight!)) As to Vader's killing of Ozzel being a mistake--I wonder. Maybe Ozzel wasn't killed due to incompetence. Maybe he was a rebel spy, and Vader was just waiting for an excuse to off him. As to Needa's knee bend not having been noticed and left in the movie for that reason: it's there. That's enough for me. Music favorites: early Kansas, late Styx, Beatles. Then there's always Gershwin, Bach and Tchaikovsky. Lots

of others, but these are my biggies. Current favorite is Mr. Mister due to their strong orchestration and balance of sound (i.e., the music doesn't drown out the lyrics).

Tim Blaes: Why should Sandra Necchi or anyone else have to "lay off our press"? The same Constitution's Bill of Rights that guarantees us freedom of the press also guarantees us freedom of speech (which includes the written word). I agree that our press probably is the best in the world, but the right to criticize it is part of what makes it so great.

Sally Syrjala: At first I was pretty upset that Lucas had lost his case against the government using the term "Star Wars" to describe one of the stupidest defense ideas to come down the pike in this or any other century. Then, when I stopped to think about it, I realized that this could only work in the favor of SW writers and artists should LFL get antsy again about what we can or cannot publish. So, I'm very glad that LFL lost. Damn near ecstatic, in fact. As to your comparison of the SW Rebellion to the Revolutionary War--Huzzah! Fantastic comparison and one I'm ashamed that I didn't think of myself. I wonder if any Imperial supporters in fandom would have been Tories had they been alive at the time of the Revolution. About the animosity genfen feel toward mediafen--hopefully when they realize that we aren't a threat to them and that many of us belong to both fandoms, they'll cool off. I don't tend to worry about it very much because anyone who looks down on my personal interests has an icecube's chance on Venus of becoming a friend of mine.

Vonnie Fleming: The more I think about it, the more convinced I'm becoming that Anakin was a full Jedi when he fell. But, if he had already been influenced toward the Dark before completing his training and there weren't enough Jedi of the proper type or training to realize this, his Fall would be more understandable. Your comments in reference to the article "Question Authority" hit the nail right on the head. By demanding control over fan's rights, LFL is doing nothing more than alienating its biggest fans. Then again, we can live very well without them, since SW already exists.

Kerri Smithline: Hey, if the Emperor was a clone of the real thing, does that mean that Blake was a clone, too? Oops, sorry, I'm crossing universes again. Actually, I don't care if Blake was real or not. Avon and Tarrant can lead the gang very nicely on their own--if they don't kill each other first! (For those who are wondering what I'm babbling on about--all this is from the British sf series BLAKE'S 7. Good show! It's about an apparently unsuccessful rebellion against an Empire-like government. The fact that the two main characters are nearly always in various stages of insanity may have something to do with their lack of success. And they're the good guys!) I don't know if Buddy Hart metamorphosed into Corey Hart, but Corey Hart's resemblance to Harrison is downright frightening! About artificial insemination--if the SW universe was up to the technology that made clones possible, then they would have been able to preserve both Jedi sperm and ova. In this way, a surrogate mother could carry a completely Jedi baby. Oh my garsh, another story idea!

Sally Smith: Grow up in the mundane way? Never! I'm with you, kid! "The Ten Lost Tribbles of Is-rael"? Har! My tape collection includes AN AMERICAN IN PARIS, SAN FRANCISCO, PIMPERNEL SMITH, BLACK FURY, THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL and ATTACK OF

THE KILLER TOMATOES (so don't be surprised if I break into a non-rousing chorus of "Puberty Love"). And, of course, anything I can get my hands on that Harrison was ever in! Like Cheree says, some parts of my collection may be pure crud, but my main criteria is that I like them. (The original LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS is a crud classic made in a week or less. When I found a copy for ten bucks, I grabbed it.)

Ummmm, uh, Cheree, before I forget. Here I write a nice, friendly, pleasant letter (last issue) and what do you pick as its headliner but "Brainless Deviants". I'd better watch what I say in this one. I tremble in anticipation. Uh, oh, I can see it now--"Pure Crud!" (see above) or even "Crud Classic!" ((Ed: I think you lucked out and got an illo this time, but I'll remember that for next ish.))

Lin Ward: What to do with the clones left over after the war? For one thing, if the stormtroopers are clones and only know war, they would probably have to be separated from the rest of the population if there is any way to tell that they are clones. If they're trainable and undetectable, they could be slipped into the general populace a few at a time. If they're both untrainable and detectable, another world would have to be found for them and protected from outside invasion (totally isolated, in other words). If the clones can't reproduce, they would die out in a generation or two. If they can reproduce (we haven't seen any female clones, but that doesn't mean that they don't exist,) then some way would have to be found to educate the youngsters so that they could eventually be allowed to rejoin the rest of the Alliance. It's a serious moral problem, given the circumstances mentioned here, and one the Alliance may have to face.

Carole Regine: Dark Chewbacca tale? Brrrr! Sounds like something out of Lovecraft. I don't know if I could ever write the story the way I had it in mind. It was absolutely vile. I'd have to give it some pretty heavy thought. How did Ben and Yoda welcome Anakin into the fold of otherworldly Jedi? Well, first they kicked him right in the ectoplasm, then they forgave him.

Marlene Karkoska: I completely agree with what you said about letting the writers of outstanding stories know our thoughts on their writing. In fact, I'd even go so far as to say that a story should be praised simply for how much it is enjoyed, not just how well it is written. Three SW stories I've enjoyed many times over the years are Maggie Nowakowska's "Last Flight of the Millennium Falcon", "Little One" by Lisa Adolf and "Metamorpheus" by Ellen Blair. I like everything I've read by Anne E. Zeek, though my favorites by her are "Honor Binds Me", "Revenant" and "Skyfall." I've never read anything by Pat Nussman that I haven't liked. I love Jacqueline Taero's funny little rhymes and every poem I've ever read by Susan Matthews and Pat Nussman. I loved the Cori Beckett stories up until the last one in Moby Pegasus which made me sick to my stomach. Artists I enjoy for various and sundry reasons (they're all so different) are: Debra Drake, Wanda Lybarger, Jean Kluge, June Edwards, Nancy Stasulis, Cathye Faraci, Martynn (even without backgrounds. Sigh.), Stefanie Hawks, J. R. Dunster, and many others. My favorite cartoonists are Yvonne Zan, Leah Rosenthal and Suzy Sansom. I know that listing my faves here doesn't make up for not writing to the zines I've seen their works in over the years, but hopefully it will be worth something. Hmmm, ideas on why Luke's last name was not changed

--how about Yoda knew that history could not be changed until the point where Luke became involved in the Rebellion (every timeline Yoda saw up until then, or maybe there was just one, was the same) at which point it would become necessary for Vader to know who his son is (though, apparently, things changed a little faster than Yoda expected).

Maggie Nowakowska: Ya know, now that both you and Tim mention it, I've never been able to imagine myself as Han's love interest, either. I even made up a Mary Sue of my own, then was never able to figure out where to use her in a story. Probably the reason for this is that I simply don't belong in the SW universe, and if I try to be a Mary Sue, she eventually turns out to be someone else who does belong there, and she isn't me anymore.

Carolyn Gollidge: Congratulations on your book sale! I owe you a letter from way back. Maybe now that I'm settled in my new digs I'll have time to catch up with all the people I owe letters to. About the Ewoks having had contact with the humans in the SW universe before, I think they must have. I'm certain that Wicket said, "No!" to Leia at one point in their first conversation. It would be one hell of a coincidence for the Ewoks to have the same word for "no" as the humans (in whatever galactic speech they use). If humans had visited Endor sometime previous to ROTJ, among the first words the Ewoks would have learned from them would have been "yes" and "no". Also, so what if Yoda was crabby? Like you say, his terseness could simply be part of his character or personality. I love his sense of humor, and that is one point no one has touched on. I agree with you about Marquand being a twit. His abysmal directing almost ruined ROTJ. If only it could be made over again with Kershner as director. Where was Lucas' brain the day he hired Marquand? You're supposed to go forward with character development, not backwards! I doubt that either Lucas or Marquand will ever understand this. Damn! But then, as Sandi Jones says in her letter, if you want SW stories with any real depth, read fanlit!

Bev Clark: I wonder if the non-humans were part of the Old Republic. It's an interesting idea. What do I want from Lucasfilm? Right now, outside of possible future movies, not a darn thing. I'll gladly leave them and their movies and SFX and new young directors and technicians alone, as long as they'll leave me and my writing alone. My writing SW fan fiction has nothing to do with them. It doesn't rob their pocketbooks, but it does give them plenty of free publicity. What I mean by respect is respect for my right to write what I please and to develop my talents as I please and not to be threatened by big moneybags lawyers. In return, I won't take their money from them, I'll continue to spend my money on their products, and I will ask for them to respect my rights as an individual if they expect me to respect their rights in the same way. In fact, they would make me very happy if they just ignored SW fandom completely. I sincerely hope that they will make more SW movies in the future, but the pure and simple fact is that we don't need them anymore. We can write them ourselves.

Gods, I've run out of space to write and there are still nine letters left to comment on! B. J., I'd like to have Han, Luke and Leia as friends, too. They're all basically good people and I'll bet they'd be very interesting to talk with. Liz Sharpe, good response to Jean Stevenson. Lisa Thomas, yep, different sets of clones.

Cheree, thanks for another great issue.

Lisa Thomas
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Charleston Heights, SC 29418

April 23, 1986

Hello, all! SE#11 was great, as usual. I love the new nameplates! They look great!

So, any news on OSWFC? I never joined (gasp) so I have no way of knowing if they're disbanding (in case I ever finally get around to joining) except by someone in the club. At least the International Brotherhood of Jedi Knights has decided not to give up. Lucasfilm was giving them a lot of pressure for a while.

All of this talk about SW zines dying down is depressing! Other than the obvious reason for buying SW zines, I buy them for a tan! MediaWest is conveniently placed right before the summer so that my copies arrive by the start of the season. Zines keep me out in the sun long enough to actually get some color (the color was red last year after FAR REALMS #7, though!). Anyhow, I don't think the interest in SW fandom will ever completely die--especially with folks like me who hope to take a stab at playing zine ed when time permits.

I must say that I was disappointed somewhat with the ROTJ video. The scenes where, at the theater, you see both Luke and Han on the skiff at the same time, are shown switching back and forth on the tape and it drives me crazy! One of my favorite scenes is when Luke and Han are reunited. "How're we doin'?" On the video, Luke is off-screen as he replies, "Same as always." I always loved the look on his face as he replied. I'm just being picky I guess, but I want it the same way I saw it May 25, 1983. I guess I'll just have to go buy a large screen and projector.

Mary Kever: Uh-huh, I see where you've got your paw on Luke, and that wicked grin on your face... I'll bet he set you back some. The '85 ST/SW Price Guide lists him around \$100. (By the way, has anybody found a 1986 edition of the price guide? I'm still searching.)

Michelle Malkin: "Unimportant brainless deviants"--I like that! Your reference to Arnold Stang was long on me. How close to 40?

Matthew Whitney: We think alike--the same thought went across my mind as I read that line from Dr. Carl Sagan's CONTACT. I also agree that the book is fantastic!

Tim Blaes: "Han's frozen assets," huh? I will never believe there was no pun intended there!

Sally Syrjala: Your comments on SW/Revolutionary War were very interesting.

Vonnie Fleming: I think that the mindlink between Vader and Luke had always been there, but Luke wasn't consciously aware of it until he was told that Vader is his father.

So when and where is this Ewok barbeque?

Carole Regine: A-ha! The first few times I saw ESB and Luke would say, "There's something familiar about this place," I would just say, "huh?" Your idea of his being there with his mother and Leia is very probable, but I have to disagree with your statement that in ROTJ both Luke and Leia have vague memories of their mother. Luke says just the opposite. "I have no memory of my mother. I never knew her."

Marlene Karkoska: I never really thought much about Luke keeping the Skywalker name before or the potential threat it posed. As you said, you could always go back to Marcia Brin's theory that Anakin

and Darth are two separate people; therefore, neither Ben or Owen expected to Luke to be in danger at the time that Owen took Luke in. However, by keeping Luke from joining the Academy, Owen obviously had some fear of Luke being endangered if he were anywhere but the planet farthest from the "bright center of the universe." I guess that since Ben knew that Luke's destiny was to eventually face/confront Darth Vader (I don't dare say "his father" since that is so touchy), he decided to let Vader find Luke when the time (as decided by Ben and perhaps Yoda) was right. There was no reason to shelter Luke Skywalker as long as he was kept on a short leash. Does that make sense? Hope so!

Carolyn Gollidge: Well, by now you should have finally received the "special delivery" I sent--though it took forever for me to get it to you. Again, I'm really sorry that it took so long!

Unfortunately, EWOK EXTERMINATOR T-shirts are not easy to come by. I had mine custom made.

Bev Clark: Very interesting insight into Yoda.

Jeanine Hennig: Your "Private Life" series gets more interesting with each issue!

Liz Sharpe: Thanks for a great article on clones! It gave much insight into the clones and clone wars, and it answered a lot of questions I had.

Pat Easley: You mentioned the scene in ROTJ where Luke's words, gestures and lip movements are out of sync. That has always bothered me, too, but the most obvious (one that Lucasfilm should have corrected in the editing room) is when Han is trying to help Lando back onto the skiff. The skiff suddenly leans to one side and Han slides off--just grabbing on with his hands. The next second he is hanging by his feet. What an acrobatic move!

Yea! I have actually read the entire issue and finished by LoC a week before the deadline! Could a pattern be developing here? Well, clear skies!



Barbara Gardner
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Saint Marys, PA 15857

April 27, 1986

Hi, folks!

Well, Cheree, how's this? My first LoC and I'm already an under-the-wire candidate! Sorry. I'm sure you know how time flies... (And next time I promise to type. Right now I don't have access to a typewriter.)

First of all, I'd like to say "thanks" to whom-ever came up with the idea of putting that poem on SE's front this issue. A beautiful memorial. That explosion hit me especially hard since my entire career is to be centered around the space program. I myself am preparing to get into the Air Force Academy where I plan to major in Astronautical Engineering and Space Sciences.

I'd also like to say thanks to those of my pen pals who read SE and wrote me concerning whether or not I'd changed my mind about my plans because of the accident. No way. I've known since I was a freshman in high school that this is what I want to do with my life, and nothing will change that.

Liz Sharpe: Great article on clones! I think you hit the nail on the head. I'd really rather not give my opinion on the clones' rights issue, because I'm going to saying enough in this letter to get me into hot water probably, but I do agree that the Republic fell because it was too delicate to handle that kind of an issue and that the Jedi themselves were disorganized and "pacifists."

Jeanine Hennig: As to the private life of a Jedi, just how do you know what you're talking about? ~~Hummmmmmm~~??

Cheree: Talk about cheap advertising! After all everyone has said about TREMOR IN THE FORCE #3, how am I supposed to resist buying one? So, my deposit is enclosed. And when you made that comment about the Darkside Luke cover (I believe it went something like "Ooooooooo!")...well, that was the straw that broke the Bantha's back, I guess. Being a Sithlord myself, the idea of a Darkside Luke tickles me...

Mary Keever: That one black glove does lots of things for me. And Vader's two do even more!

Michelle Malkin: The only brainless deviant I know is a certain person by the name of Palpatine. How about you?

The idea of Luke's Jedi being different from the old order is interesting. It might be a good story idea... The Light Lords of the Sith...

Matthew: Go back and read Ben's conversation with Luke on Dagobah in ROTJ again. Ben says that Leia does lead her own cell of the Alliance. Her apparent demotion in ROTJ could be due to the fact that all the Alliance was assembled, you know. And even the leaders (like Luke and Leia) had to have leaders (like Ackbar and Mothma) over them.

Tim Blaes: A generic-monowhat with techno-whatstic leanings?! Could you translate that to simple English, please? My Galactic Standard is a bit rusty this week.

Did you have to be so rude to Sandra Necchi? I don't care if she insulted our press or called our whole country a bunch of ignorant nerf-herders! That doesn't mean you have to stoop to the same methods to get your offense across.

Okay, now, I'll squeeze in my own question. In the novel ROTJ, after Luke asked Yoda if Vader was his father, Yoda's first thoughts were, "This boy

is not yet a man complete." Anybody out there know what he meant by that? I've got a couple of theories of my own, but I'd like to hear someone else's for once. (St. Marys is not the place to live if you're a SW fan. I'm the only one. No kidding.)

Vonnie Fleming: Why wouldn't Vader want to die? After all he'd done to his son and to thousands of others (I don't specifically name Leia here because I don't think he knew that she was his daughter), the guilt would be all but unbearable. He might feel that his life was a price, however small a price compared to the crime, to be paid. (I hope I'm not just rephrasing what Michelle Malkin said. I seem to have missed that letter. I'm trying for back issues, Cheree! Honest!) Anyway, I cried at least as many buckets of tears as you did when he died.

Well, now I'll jump into the frying pan (if I haven't already) and say that, if you haven't noticed already, I'm a dedicated Darth Vader fan (yes, people, another one!). Ever since I was bestowed with his Royal Blackfulness' (are you listening, Jenny Boring?) name, he's grown on me (like mold? -- credit Lisa Thomas). Luke is running a close second for supremacy, but blast it anyway, he's got enough of his own fans, right? So now that that's officially out, I'll jump into the fire and say that Vonnie and Carolyn aren't the only ones who think Darth's sexy when he "struts his stuff across the star destroyer bridge." A friend of mine went with me to ROTJ the 2nd or 3rd time I saw it and she insists that I hyperventilated when Vader strode down the shuttle ramp at his arrival on the Death Star. But Carolyn Golledge, if you ever call Darth a "shoe-shine boy who fell into the boot polish" again, I'll...I'll... Oh, I'll think of something!

Michelle Malkin: What do you think? "Darth Vader for President! He'll find new ways to motivate us!"

Cheree again: I don't think Lisa Thomas wanted to "proect" her reputation. I think she meant to protect it. ((Ed: Hey--I ain't a droid!))

Lisa Thomas: Quick! Define "proect"! I've got to get it into my protocol droid's vocabulary! If you can get an EWOK EXTERMINATOR T-shirt, can I get one that says JEDI EXTERMINATOR? ("Ooooooooo!" she says.) Just kidding.

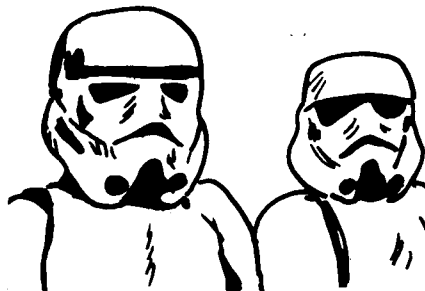
Just who did you fight for in the war, anyway, girl? (I know. I know. Ask the blond over there in the black...)

New idea for our fan club name: "Shoe-Shine Boys and Moisture Farmers". What d'ya think, Lisa? What do you mean, "NO!?! You remember those star destroyers I warned you about--the ones in orbit around Earth? Well, they know where South Carolina is...

Well, I'd like to comment more but my free time was just enslaved.

So, 'till next time, may your Ewoks always giggle. (Don't glare at me like that, Lisa!)

Clear skies!



Sandi Jones
629 Dana Court
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May 1, 1986

I would like to thank Cheree for the wonderful tribute she paid to the CHALLENGER Seven crew. I had heard the poem "High Flight" quoted several times during the days after the accident and am pleased to have a copy of it.

Liz Sharpe's article on Clones was very interesting and is serving as a great source of inspiration to me. I have been working on a piece of fan fiction that will deal with some of the things that occurred during the Clone Wars and I was having difficulty working on the background for the wars. Thanks to Liz's wonderful article, I now have a jumping off point for my own thinking. Before I start making comments on the letters in the last issue, I would like to thank everyone who said such complimentary things to me about my article in issue #10. I was very pleased with the positive response and it has given me heart that I may actually be able to write a half-way readable article.

Linda Deneroff: You brought up two very good points in your letter. The first is where are we going with our fandom. As a relative newcomer to fandom, I can tell you that I am still exploring the newness of fandom. For me the most important things that fandom has given to me is a look at the

Luke was an exception and more Force sensitive than others. I would hate to see all those children who are perceived to be espers forced (no pun intended) to develop their talents. I think that it would have to wait until the child was of an age of consent to decide if they wanted to develop that talent. I don't see Luke going around the galaxy and recruiting two-year-olds to train to be Jedi. Perhaps I misunderstood your statement, and if I did, I think that you will agree that no type of training should ever be forced on a child.

Matthew: Hi, pal. Well, I guess your concerns about my article didn't come true. As we have discussed before, I merely wanted to give others alternatives to Luke's actions to stimulate them to think about other alternatives if they did not agree with what actions he took. It is a shame that some of your friends should not understand your interest in fandom, but as we both know, there is a great deal of support out there for those of us who are fans but have no one in the area to converse with on the subject. My postage, phone, and tape bills will prove this point to anyone who sees the amount I spend on them. For me, SW is a form of recreation. I don't go out much and find that fandom has filled up a lot of pleasant hours for me.

Tim Blaes: I think you should be very happy that Cheree saw fit to print all of your comments.

Carol Mularski: Thanks, just what I need, another article to write. Actually, I have been giving some thoughts to writing such an article. Maybe

the movies. I have also found a wonderful group of friends, a bonus I never knew I would get. The other point that you brought up was, what is a droid. First of all, I have to state that I am using only what we are shown in the three movies for my definition of droids. To me they are mechanical "things" that are programmed to perform certain pre-programmed functions. Whether they have the capacity to learn, I don't think we are shown this point in the films. I have not read any sf works that deal with droids, so I bring no preconceived ideas to my viewing of the movies.

Mary Keever: I definitely like the picture of you and your "friend". Seems to me I have seen one

to the possible alternative remarks Ben could have made when Luke asked about his father. Heck, I could make a career of doing these kind of articles! I found your comment that you didn't know that you could be a creative writer until you became involved in fandom very interesting. I too had no idea that I could write anything at all. My article on Luke in issue #10 was the first thing of that type I had ever written. It is most encouraging to send your fiction to someone whose work you admire and have them give you glowing reviews. It has been a great learning experience and a whole heck of a lot of fun. How horrible for you to become a "Burgeoning Mundane". I know that I could never go back to my

later years (now don't you feel sorry for this over the hill old girl?).

Lin Ward: Thank you for bringing up the subject of LoCs for zines. As both a submitter and zine ed, I can tell you that LoCs are very important. I don't know if anyone has ever made up guidelines for LoCing zines. I would think that it would be a good idea to read the LoCs in zines, and see which ones you like and which ones you don't like. I can tell you that as a writer I love positive feedback, but also appreciate an honest critique of my work. I want to improve and the only way I can do that is by having others tell me what they like and what they don't like. If my characters are cardboard, I want to know. As an example, my first story is a real Mary Sue. I sent it to someone for their comments and received a lot of good feedback from her. Now I know what I have to do to make her a real character. I think that all of us need to hear from those who know what the heck they are talking about as far as our writing ability. I also think that we need to hear from those who just plain like, or don't like, what we have written. The reasons behind the likes and dislikes don't have to be profound, just "Your poem made me want to cry since you portrayed Leia's loneliness so well", or "Your story about Han and the nerf-herder made me laugh because of the way you showed off Han's sense of humor," or "I was a little uneasy with your story of Luke since I don't see him shaving his head and becoming a Buddhist monk." I don't know about others, but I am so hesitant about thinking that I write anything worthwhile, that I would be happy to hear that someone just made it through one of my stories. Like I said before, I loved all of the positive comments on my article and especially liked the almost instant response of approval that I got. It will be a long time until next May to wait to see what kind of response my submissions get from people whom I don't correspond with. I also think that some of us would love to hear responses to our work sooner. If I may be so bold as to plug my own zine, I hope to have a section that will deal with the average fan's reactions to fan fiction. It will also be a place where fans can find out about their favorite subjects. It was through another fan's recommendation that I learned of Liz Sharpe's "Command Performance" and had one of the best reads of my life. Since A CLOSE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS comes out quarterly, it would be a way for fans to have a special place to discuss fan fiction, since I am not sure what the reactions of other fans would be to discussing it in letterzines. Any comments? ((Ed: I think that sounds like a marvelous idea! Although I love the responses that appear in SE, it would be great to have a sort of literary zine whose purpose is to offer a forum for discussions of fan stories.))

Well, since you asked and since I am into plugging my own stuff, I will tell you about the calendar. By the time this issue of SE is out, the calendar will be done. It will feature art by many of SW fandom's best artists. I won't take the time to list them all since their names appear in the ad in Mos Eisley Marketplace. I am hoping to make this an annual event and may branch out into other fandoms if this one is a success.

Carole Regine: Yes, I did read "Hell to Pay" and was impressed since it seemed to be the first sympathetic view of Owen that I had read. If you have read my story, "Prophecy of the Lightbringer", you know my reasons for feeling that Luke was familiar with Dagobah. As for the greeting that Yoda

and Ben gave to Anakin at the end, it appears to have been a rather congenial meeting. It would make for an interesting premise for a story. I think that the fact that Vader's remains were burnt by Luke and then the spirit of Anakin appears was a very deliberate way of showing that Anakin had been trapped within the body and armor of Vader.

Marlene Karkoska: Your points about why Owen and Beru agreed to raise Luke was very interesting. As with all of our speculations, I am afraid that we will have to wait for the first trilogy to find out why. I think that there must have been some compelling reason to make them adopt Luke. As you said, it would have been an inconvenience to have a young child on the moisture farm. My own theory is that Beru and Owen were either not able to have, or just lost a child. I don't think that Beru was the type of woman who would allow Ben to take Luke out into the desert to be raised by a hermit. The problem of Luke's name continuing to be Skywalker is another interesting problem. I had thought that perhaps he had been called Luke Lars but in the radio programs, he is referred to as Skywalker, so I guess that shoots down that theory. I had thought that perhaps it wasn't until after the death of Owen and Beru that Luke decided to use Skywalker. The two other alternatives I have are that Skywalker is a rather common name or that GL just never thought of it being a problem. Regarding your comments on Luke having to consciously embrace the Dark Side, could this be why Palpatine was so anxious to have Luke converted once Vader brought it to his attention what a good ally he could be. Perhaps Luke would have been more powerful than Vader once he chose the Dark since Vader had been seduced, whereas Luke would have chosen the Dark. I can't even imagine it happening but I suppose what Palpatine wanted was for Luke to make the decision in a calm manner. Free will is certainly a topic that is addressed in the trilogy. I don't think that Luke and Leia are the only ones capable of using the Force, and therefore I don't think that Luke will have to wait for his children to grow up. I think we are told sufficiently through the trilogy that the Force is within all of us and that it is just that it needs to be brought out in all of us. I am sure that it is like artistic talent. Everyone who is able to hold a pencil can in some way make markings on a piece of paper, but it is something that for those of us with a predisposition to the talent must work on to bring out and refine. I am sure that it is this way with the Force and the ability to use it. As for why Force sensitives did not come forward to be trained, I think that in the climate of the Imperial government, I would be a bit hesitant to raise my head and admit to being a Force sensitive.

Maggie Nowakowska: As you have stated so many times, SW is very subjective and because of that we all bring our own preconceived ideas. This is why I would have never given any thought to the idea that Lars' farm did not belong to them and may just have reverted to the community. I enjoyed your analysis of SW fandom very much. I can certainly trace my own development as a fan through the flow chart. I just wonder how many more individuals there are out there who are as interested in the saga as we are, but like me a year or so ago, have no idea that anything like fandom existed.

Carolyn Golledge: G'day, mate! I really appreciated your insight into the fact that Luke's actions on the Death Star in regards to saving Leia were not militarily logical. This, and many other

points, is why it is so refreshing to have such an insightful Han fan as you as a friend. You have really opened my eyes to many of the things about Han that I never saw before, or my anger at him blocked me from seeing. When two fans who are basically fans of opposite characters can discuss the good and bad points of each character, it makes for very interesting and insightful discussions. Too often in the past I have been thrown into a defensive stance with regards to Luke because of the unfair criticism of him. Another thing is that you and I both see that the saga would be so much less if it weren't for the deep friendship between Han and Luke. Friendship is to me one of the greatest things that I have gotten out of the saga and fandom. I do like your idea of the author giving a little insight into why she (or he) wrote the story and what the inspiration for the story was. We have exchanged many motivations for stories and they have been springboards for each of us to contemplate for stories in the latest issues of SE. I guess if we have to wait an eternity for GL to get around to making the first trilogy, we better content ourselves with writing fan fiction to answer some of our questions.

Bev Clark: I agree with your comments on what Lucasfilm owes fans. The only thing that I would like from LFL would be to hog tie GL for a couple of hours and force him to answer all my questions, but that of course is absolutely ridiculous. I think that as a rather small section of fandom, we have to create for ourselves what we want out of fandom. I will be very interested to see if anyone has any further comments to make on what we want from LFL. For me, the announcement that Trilogy One is in pre-production would be enough.

B. J. Evans: You asked Marlene how Luke could be sure that Leia was his sister since Ben and Yoda had not told him about his father. No one had to tell Luke that Leia was his sister, he sensed it,

through the Force perhaps. That was the same way that he knew that Vader was telling the truth about being his father. Luke confirmed it with Yoda since he may have secretly hoped that his feelings were wrong.

Jeanine Hennig: I really had to think about your question regarding whose characters these are. First of all, I think that there needs to be a distinction made between the two different types of fan fiction. First of all, there is what I consider to be the mainline fan fiction, such as what Carolyn Gollidge writes, which I think stays very true to the characters that Lucas created. Then there are those who create alternative universes, such as yourself. I think that both these types of fiction are creations of the author and therefore I think that the characters are more ours in the stories that we write. I think that it is a very fine line that we walk. I don't think that GL or LFL can have anything to say regarding the fiction that we create since no one is doing it for a profit. We do it for the joy and experience of it. To me, once something as overwhelming as SW happens, it becomes a part of the national consciousness and transcends the rights of ownership. I am only speaking here of fandom. I think that if any of us decided to try and publish one of our zines or stories for mass distribution, we would be infringing on the world of business that LFL occupies, but our fannish activities have nothing to do with that world.

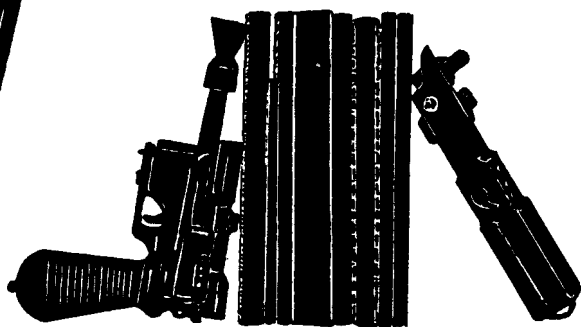
Ronda Henderson: Missed you in the last issue.

Well, there is more that I would like to say but I am afraid that I would have to type another six pages and I can't stand that thought and I am sure that Cheree couldn't stand getting a sixteen page LoC from me.

I look forward to seeing many of you at MWC, though by the time you read this, it will be over with. 'Til next time... Go with the Force.

Matthew Whitney and some blonde guy who wandered by...





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ROGUE'S GALLERY. Ford fans--put more scoundrels in your life! RG is a news digest devoted to Harrison Ford's movies and activities, past, present and future. Printed quarterly. In its fourth year of printing. \$15.00 (\$25.00 foreign airmail) to Joann Emerson, Route #1, Cushing, WI 54006.

SCOUNDREL--A letterzine devoted to the SW saga. Features: Question Forum, Articles, Essays, Reviews, LoC's, Zine Listings and a Classified Section, plus a Consumer Corner. Published quarterly. \$8.00/4 issues; \$2.00 per issue. Checks payable to Joan Shumsky, 24 Meehan Ave., Raritan, NJ 08869.

SHADOW DANCE--Media zine devoted to those lovable scoundrels--on both sides of the law! #1 includes "Identity Crisis" (SW), "Three's Company" (Harrison Ford story), "The Fan Who Never Returned" (SW/Fantasy Island), and more! Limited supply left. \$7.50 US, \$10.00 overseas. #2 includes "Delusions of Grandeur" (BG), "A Time of Life and Death" (THJ), "Aspasia" (SW), "Perchance to Dream" (SW), "Delirium's Dream" (TJH), "Just One of Those Days" (SW). Special Jon-Eric Hexum cover and memorial prose. More!! Approx 100 pages. Now available. \$12.00 US, \$15.00 overseas. Please make checks payable to K. L. Smithline. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001 - 14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

SIGNS OF WISDOM: A "Desert Seed" novel by Carol Mularski. Kaili Lars learns that would-be Jedi must pass a Test, which is different for each person. Copies available now (economics of printing

mean larger number than immediately needed). \$9.00 1st class, checks payable to Chris Callahan. Order from The Unknown Press c/o Callahan, 6101 Seminole St., Berwyn Heights, MD 20740. Checks payable to Chris Callahan.

SITH YEARBOOK -- An Imperial-oriented zine in the tradition of Imperial Entanglements. Writers include Bonder, Habel, Hines-Stroede, Necchi, Tension/Stevens, Wilson. Art by Bonder, Contessa, Habel, Hummel, Rosenthal, Stasulis, Van Riper, Griffith, Bernie! and bes shahar. Price \$7.00 plus \$2.40 for 1st class postage. Susan W. Henderson, 40 Westminster Ave., Portland ME 04103. Some same-sex relationships (yes, Pielt and Serzho are back, better than ever).

SOUTHERN KNIGHTS #1 contains a special post-ROTJ story by Liz Sharpe ("Command Performance") and another by Carolyn Golledge ("Reawakening"). Both stories feature Luke, Han and Leia prominently. Other contributors include: Hennig, Cargill, Nussman, Stasulis, Virgil, Dani, Rosenthal and more. In limited supply now. \$12.50 fc. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS #1 is now available in a reprint. Contains several S&S stories, MIAMI VICE, STAR WARS and much, much more. Many and varied fandoms represented. Contributors include: Carr, Dani, Golledge, Jefford, McGhin, Rosenthal and Virgil. Availability will be extremely limited. Send a SASE for current prices. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS SPECIAL 1.5. An all MAN FROM UNCLE mini-zine of an adult nature. No same-sex or violence. Approximately 50 pages long and available for \$4.00 fc. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN KNIGHTS #2. Contents include: 'Above All Shadows' by Carolyn Golledge, "Memories" by Linda Knights, "Frisento" by L. A. Carr, "Return Engagement" by Liz Sharpe and more. Art by Virgil, Dani, etc. \$5.00 & SASE to reserve. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

THE COMPLETE ZEEK, Vol I- the first of a two volume set contains stories in the SW, ST and IJ universes, including "Honor Binds Me", "Spock's Elf", "Perchance to Dream", "Queen's Gambit", "Skyfall" and more. About 200 pages. \$9.75 (by hand), \$11.50 (bk ins), \$12.50 (FC). Pat Nussman, 2J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

THE PRINCESS TAPES, a SW/Princess Leia-oriented fanzine is now available from Krystarion Press for the cover price of \$7.00. Contains 5 stories including 3 pre-SW tales from Leia's background, 3 articles, two poems, two art portfolios, our in famous "unclassifieds", and much more. TPT also features a color cover by Connie Faddis. Send SASE or SASP for mailing information. Sorry about that, but it varies too much for one price to cover all. Send to Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE PRINCESS TAPES: THE PROLOGUE is still available for \$1.50 cover price, \$2.50 fc mail. If ordered together with TPT, send SASE or SASP for mailing costs. Send to Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low,

2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #1: Still some copies available; the zine that started it all! Fiction, articles and poetry by Ripley, Peed, Thomas, Martz, Rogan, Saye and others. Art by River, Peed, Fregni, Carleton and others. Cover by River. \$12.50, first class mail, \$10.00 in person. THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #2: The saga continues! Fiction by Golledge, Ripley, Cope, Martz and others; art by Lybarger, River, Charvat, Peed, Dani, Bryant, and others. Something to Offend Absolutely Everyone! Perfect bound. Fan Q nominee. \$13.50 in person; \$14.50 book rate; \$17.00 first class mail. THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #3: Debuting at MediaWestCon 6! Onward and upward with the arts! Fiction, articles and poetry by Randolph, Ripley, Wilson, Thomas, Martz, Henderson, Saye, Golledge, Erwin, Hennig, Cope and a cast of thousands. Art by River, Markle, Fisher, Carey, Lybarger, Stasulis, Lane, Easley, Afton and others. A big, fat, juicy issue: SW fanzines are not dead! SASE for final price--or see us at the cons! All 3 issues available from Double D Press, Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

UNIVERSAL TRANSLATOR is a quarterly newsletter listing available, proposed, and international zines for all media fandoms in a convenient, "see-at-a-glance" format. Also includes reviews, con info, and other items of interest to fandom. \$2.75 per iss. (\$3.75 overseas); subscriptions are available for up to two issues--\$5.50 (\$7.50 overseas). Make checks payable to Susan J. Bridges, 200 West 79th St. 14H, New York, NY 10024. Editors, ads are free and we are looking for yours!

WELL OF THE SOULS #4: "An Eye for an Eye" by Tammy Monfette. Indy and Belloq are drawn to a mysterious jungle city for the legendary jewels it is said to hold. What they find there is more than they bargained for...or could conceive of in their wildest dreams--or worst nightmares. "The Exhibit" by Carol-Lynn Sappe'. A handsome archaeologist and his beautiful assistant try to retrieve the Ark of the Covenant from its hiding place. If you think you've heard it before, you're wrong--because this archaeologist's name is Marcus B. Jones and this is today! "As Time Goes By", by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. A few small incidents from the life and times of Dr. and Mrs. Jones, from 1939 to 1983. Sometimes funny, sometimes serious, but always containing more in-jokes than you can imagine! (And we can imagine QUITE a bit!) \$6.00 FC. #1 (Jan. 1982) is \$6.00 FC; #2 (June 1982) is \$6.00 FC; #3 (Jan. 1983) is \$7.00 FC, or save and get all three for \$18.00 (these are xerox copies). Send your checks, money orders, or spare archaeology professors to: WELL OF THE SOULS, c/o Sally Smith, 38725 Lexington St. #247, Fremont, CA 94536.

WELL OF THE SOULS #5. "Tinseltown" by Roberta Rogow. Indy, Willie and Shorty return to America and fall in with evil companions--like William Randolph Hearst, Katharine Hepburn, F. Scott Fitzgerald, David Niven, Louis B. Mayer...not to mention the Chinese thugs who are out to get Indy and Shorty in revenge for Lao Che's son's death...and a natural disaster or two. You get the idea! "Anything Goes" by Jeannie Webster. In 1937, Indy and Marion decide to visit a nightclub. When Indy recognizes the blonde singer, things get...uh...interesting between Willie and Marion! "Raiders of the Lost Fridge" by Ros Wheadon. A satirical script. The Nazis have

stolen Indy's refrigerator, and he's the only one who can save the world from being flooded with frozen sauerkraut--but he should've read the script first, or at least avoided Elstree! "As Time Goes By, The Sequel" by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. It's the 1980's, and Indiana Jones' memoirs have hit the best-seller list. A couple of guys named George and Steven think the book would make a great movie--but they'll have to deal with Indy's skepticism, Marion's business acumen, and the grandkids' requests to get the rights. "What I Did on My Summer Vacation, Part 2" by Sally Smith and the WOTS crew. Just what was going on with all those weirdos at the L.A. Worldcon? AND MORE! Final price is \$7.00 first class. Sally Smith, 38725 Lexington St. #247, Fremont, CA 94536.

COMING TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

ALL THAT JAZZ--the first and possibly only all A-Team zine around! #1--Fiction so far by Garrett, Smithline, Habel. Art so far by Larimer. Submissions now being sought and accepted. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

THE BARON OF BESPIN -- Lives! Yes, we will be publishing...by next May's cons, if not sooner. So, gather 'round all you folk who appreciate Calrisian's difficult position between a rock and a hard place. Fiction by Deneroff, Dickenson (reprint from GALACTIC FALCON), Matthews, Nowakowska, Sharpe, Synge. Art by Heath, Henderson, Seigrist, Willis. Cover by Signe Landon. Digest-size 64 pages, reduced type. Barring postawful increases, price should be \$3.50. Send a check or money order now, or SASE for later information to: Susan Matthews, 2330 Federal Ave. East, Seattle, WA 98102.

CHOICE PARTS--a new Harrison Ford zine, just a bit more on the adult side. Featuring "Seasons Change" by Linda Boster. John Book and Rachel Lapp had accepted the fact that they could never see each other again; it did little to abate the way they still felt. "Chance Encounter" by Kate Birkel. Tommy Lillard was minding his own business when the strangest looking thing he'd ever seen fell out of the sky--with a beautiful, sharp-tongued princess as its passenger. Other material includes fiction by Carolyn Gollidge, Ann Wortham and Jeannie Webster, plus poetry by Martie Benedict, Pat Nussman and Patricia D'Orazio. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Martynn, Dani, Dianne Smith, Jim Markle and other award winning artists. Tentatively due out October, 1986. If interested in contributing, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

FROM THE HART. Come march with the Mulligan Guards in this tribute to Mark Hamill's portrayal of Tony Hart in the charming Broadway musical, HARRIGAN 'N HART. Deadline for submissions: Dec. 31st. For more information, SASE to DMC Press c/o Kelly Francois, 235 Union Avenue B1024, Campbell, CA 95008.

JUST A COUPLA JOKERS. The first all SIMON & SIMON zine (that we know of!) is looking for submissions of fiction, poetry, filks and art, as well as interested parties in such a zine. Aiming for a

Christmas '85 printing, we already have work by Jeffords, Carr and Hall with promises for more. Submissions and SASE's (no money at this time, please!) to Jumeau Press, 2720 Exuma Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406.

JUST DESERTS #2 is planned for late 1986. It already contains two long stories by Linda Knights and more. There is room for more fiction and artists are always appreciated. \$5.00 & SASE to reserve. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

KHAEL--a Han Solo-oriented SW zine, now soliciting stories. Must have Han as a main character. Stories so far include "Unicorn Chased" by Jean L. Stevenson, a sequel to "Unicorn's Maiden"; "Wild Card" by Patricia D'Orazio, a Sybelle and Han Solo story; "Fair Trade" by Kate Birkel, a post-ANH story; a Han Solo and Anakin Skywalker story by Lynn Farr; and a portfolio of incidental art by Wanda Lybarger. SASE to Khaelian Press, c/o Kate Birkel, 2326 S. 12th St., Omaha, NE 68108.

LATE NIGHT #2--due June, 1986, includes SSF, Ironside, GAH, SW, Steele, ST. We still need humorist and artists. Help!! SASE Judy Maricevic, 713 Overhill Dr., N. Versailles, PA 15137.

LATE NIGHT #3--accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, humor, art, filk, etc. beginning February 1st. Beginners welcome (we're tough but we're fair)! All submissions and questions, please SASE Judy Maricevic, 713 Overhill Dr., N. Versailles, PA 15137.

LEGACY FOR A HIGHWAYMAN--a pre-ANH novel of love and loss by Juanita Salicrup. SASE to Khaelian Press, c/o Kate Birkel, 2326 S. 12th St., Omaha, NE 68108.

LEGENDS OF LIGHT. As of February 1985 there will not be a third issue of LoL such as issues one and two. The major deterrents are increased job demands and limited financial resources for the editors. However, we are planning to publish the sequel to Susan Voll's "Forerunner" (LoL #1) in Spring 1986. Included with this mini-issue will be additional contributions, including short stories, poems, filks, artwork, LoC's for issue #2 and filler material. A firm limit will be imposed on the number of pages in this third issue. Contributions will not be accepted until September 1, 1985. Please watch for future notices in the ad sections of zine for details. Thanks to everyone for their support of LoL! Rebecca Walker & Susan Voll, editors.

NOT JUST LUKE. A zine still in its infancy, just waiting to grow up. Now reviewing submissions of all kinds. NJL is a playground for Mark Hamill fans with pen in hand. Mark has portrayed many a character, NOT JUST LUKE! Send submissions or info SASE to: DMC Press c/o SASE Kelly Francois, 235 Union Avenue B1024, Campbell, CA 95008.

ONCE UPON A BLUE MOON--a proposed "no-frills" MOON-LIGHTING letterzine is urgently soliciting letters of comment! Are there any fans out there? For final pub date and price, please SASE. Pat Nussman, 2J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

ONE FROM THE HEART--A proposed one-shot zine dealing with all the characters Mark Hamill has portrayed

on television, film and stage. We are currently seeking all types of submissions (open letters, filks, short stories, long stories, artwork). Ann Harvers and Lee Shenker, Co-Editors. Naughty Girls Press, 411-84th St., Brooklyn, NY 11209.

1.21 GIGAWATTS is hoping to become a reality. This is a feeler to find out if anyone is interested in reading, writing for, drawing for, etc., a zine dedicated to the 1985 summer smith hit BACK TO THE FUTURE. I would love to see alternate endings and BTTF II proposals. Send a "Hey!--Let's do it!" SASE to: DMC Press c/o Kelly Francois, 235 Union Avenue B1024, Campbell, CA 95008.

PERFECT FUSION, VOL. I, has been delayed but is still in the works! The first volume of this adult zine published by a former editor of Organia will contain 75% SW's and 25% SF material. Contributors include: Abelope, Alman, Blaes, Cargill, Denton, Drake, Faraci, Fetter, Hedge, Hennig, Kaplowitz, Knights, Lorenstein, Mathai, Malkin, Osman, Stasulis, Swan, Tennison and many others. Age statement required. Beverly Lorenstein, 432 Fanshawe St. #9, Philadelphia, PA 19111.

POWER OF SPEECH - a new ST/media letterzine with absolutely no censorship and devoted to civilized controversy is ready to go to print. Price not yet finalized. First issue includes articles and discussions on the Vulcan katra, the Vulcan wars, the Jedi, Blake's 7, THE PROFESSIONALS, analyses of the ST films vs. the series, and lots more. Guaranteed to exercise the brain. Send SASE and \$1 to Sandra H. Necchi, 4835 Cedar Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143.

PRISMS--a new zine that aspires to be the "Encyclopedia of SW fan universes", is forthcoming soon. Keep your eyes on this space next time! Galactic Winds Press, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

SHADOW DANCE II. Twice the size of #1. Fiction by: Smithline, Hunter, Wortham, Wardwell, Garret. Poetry by Mary Robertson, including special memorial poem to Jon-Eric Hexum. Games by Vandiver and Erwin. Art by: Brinkmeir, Zan, Dunster. Jon-Eric Hexum cover by J. R. Dunster. Approximately 100 pages. Reserve your copy now! Only 20 more reservations needed to go to press. Final price: \$12.00 USA, \$15.00 overseas. Please make your check payable to K. L. Smithline. Black Unicorn Press, c/o K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219. #1 still available for \$7.50.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS #2 will be ready in the fall of 1986 and will be at least as large as the first issue! Fandoms represented include: S&S, MV, AW, SW, THE MASTER, HSB, AT, B7, SWAT, RP, UNCLE and more. All out usual contributors plus some new ones! \$5.00 and SASE to reserve a copy. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. First issue sold out in a month!

SOUTHERN LIGHTS #2.5. A special adult all-BLAKE'S 7 zine. Approximately 70 pages, reduced. \$5.00 first class. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN SEVEN is planned to debut at the same time as JUST DESERTS #2 and will be all B-7 in nature. Stories include: "Season of Lies" (4th season), "For a Few Credits More" (3rd season), "The Heart of the Matter" (5th season), "Intergalactic Velvet"

(2nd season) and much more. Send a SASE to reserve a copy. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

TARDIS TIMES: Dr. Who zine. This zine is 90% complete. The only thing lacking is the money to print. The stories concentrate mainly on the Baker Dr. (Tom), but we are still accepting contributions, preferably shorts, poems, art work, articles, featuring all 6 Drs. \$3 deposit for reservation. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE ECLECTIC *--a new multi-media zine is now open for submissions. All fandoms welcome. There are no prejudices as far as subject, but there are minimal literary standards that will be upheld. THE ECLECTIC * is intended eventually to be a quarterly. \$3 for reservation. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE ENEMIES by Lynne Farr. Did you ever wonder what Darth Vader was doing while Luke was studying on Dagobah, Leia was organizing the rebellion and Han was cooling his heels in carbon freeze? Inquiring minds want to know! SASE for info to Jackie Edwards, 2206 So. 42nd, Omaha, NE 68106.

THE LEADING EDGE is a SF and F zine that features new and old writers and artists. Material for TLE #6 and 7 include stories, poetry, art and articles. If you are interested in submitting or subscribing to TLE, please contact: The Leading Edge, c/o Marion K. Smith, JKHB Rm. #3163, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.

THE MILLENNIUM FALCON CASEBOOK is a thematic one shot seeking contris; SASE for guidelines. BRIGHT STAR IN GLORY, the only mainline Brightstar Universe novel will take the Lucas/Brightstar cast through their analog of ROTJ; written by Christine Jeffords, planned for May '85 debut, and now accepting SASEs. Phantom Press, Christine Jeffords, 630 Bloomfield Ave., Verona, NJ 07044.

THE MONOCLE is a fanzine dedicated to the fantasy TV series WIZARDS AND WARRIORS. Now accepting checks for deposit of \$5.00 plus a SASE which will reserve your copy. Checks should be addressed to Mel L. Gifford. They will not be cashed until I go to press which should be about Jan. 85. Send money to Camarand Press, c/o Mel L. Gifford, 355 East 400 North, Provo, UT 84601.

THE PRINCESS TAPES #2: Now in production, TP2 is a continuation of the SW saga as seen from the Princess' point of view. It consists of a collection of shorts, poems, stories, articles, and especially art work, and is based on the original Princess Tapes poem and song cycle, excerpt of which are now on view in the Pan-Galactic Museum, 4th Quadrant, Hub Sector. Contributions welcome. \$3 for deposit. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE WOLFHOWKE TAPESTRIES. Based on the legendary events portrayed in the medieval fantasy LADYHOWKE. Nearly ready with our premiere issue. SASE for info. Wolfhowke Press, Ltd., c/o Sandy Williams, 3911 N. Hall St., Apt. A, Dallas, TX 75219.

THOUSANDWORLDS COLLECTED. In one place (but more than one volume), at last! All of Maggie Nowakow

ska's 'ThousandWorlds' stories, including several new ones(!), plus new introductions and notes by the author. Due May '86. Make checks payable to Mazeltough Press. \$5.00 + SASE. Linda Deneroff and Cynthia Levine, co-eds. Make checks payable to Mazeltough Press. Canadians, please add 50¢ postage. Write to: MAZELTOUGH PRESS; PO Box 248; Wayzata, MN 55391.

TIME TAVERN. Tentative title. The TIME TAVERN is a place of enlightened and exotic entertainment established between time and space where anybody can show up and usually does. The ultimate in cross-universe zines. Now open for submissions. Send SASE for guidelines. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

VERTIGO (formerly THING) is in need of contributions for its first issue (a really unique situation, huh?). We accept just about all media, and prefer stories with an off-the-wall slant. Real psychotic stuff. Cross-universe stories, What-If stories, parodies, humor, Twilight Zone-type twist endings, unusual angles, that sort of thing. We also need articles, reviews of just about any sort, and artists. We will consider stories of just about any length but we're not inclined to do continued pieces. VERTIGO will be about 200 pages, unreduced, with an estimated price of \$5.00 plus postage, or less as we are aiming at the cheapest zine in town. Send contributions to: VERTIGO, Susan Kimzey, PO Box 875, Greer, SC 29651. Remember, if Weird has a name, it must be VERTIGO!

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #4!! Back by popular complaint: The zine with something to offend absolutely everyone marches on! Scheduled for debut at MediaWest Con 7 in May, 1987. Deadline for submissions: January 1, 1987. For submission guidelines and general encouragement, SASE Samia Martz, 78 Council Trail, Warrensburg, MO 64093. We would like to showcase "post-ROTJ" fiction in this issue--but we are always receptive to anything good and outrageous, so write us!

OTHER WORLDS

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM KRYSTARION PRESS: Help an editor complete her mailing lists. If anyone plans on purchasing THE PRINCESS TAPES and already possessed a copy of TPT: THE PROLOGUE, when sending in the order indicate which number of THE PROLOGUE you have. This will be greatly appreciated with mucho thanks by the editor of both the above zines. Also that will allow said editor to match the numbers of both zines for each fan who orders them. Thanks. J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

ARTISTS needed for All That Jazz, the all-A-Team zine. Please send samples of work to K. L. Smithline, Black Unicorn Press, 5001-14th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

BUTTONS MADE TO ORDER. Subjects include Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill, Star Wars, A-Team, "V". Photo, general and novelty buttons as well. Legal size SASE for catalog. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

CELEBRITY PHOTOS. My candid photos of over 10,000

stars have appeared in national and international publications. SASE for information. Nancy Barr, 506 Windermere Avenue, Interlaken, NJ 07712.

CONZINEIENCE is coming--a convention by fans, for fans, for fun! A media/fanzine convention with multitudes of activities planned, including panels, dealer's room, art show/auction, banquet, costume ball and much, much more! Located at the Holiday Inn North, one minute from the Dallas-Ft. Worth Airport in (where else?) Irving, Texas. This is the convention the South's been waiting for! July 4, 5 and 6, 1986. Make your holiday special! SASE Galactic Winds Press, c/o Jeanine Hennig, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

FOR SALE--extensive SW collection of long time SW fan. Some zines, many pre-TESB toys, magazines and SW and Harrison Ford photos. Legal sized, double stamped SASE for available lists to: Lisa Adolf, 2804 Kitsap Way, Suite 203, Bremerton, WA 98312.

FOR SALE: British T.V. Annuals relating to many different fandoms such as B7, DW, ST, S&H, S&S, Professionals, TP, etc. Also British paperbacks, and British and American zines and magazines. Legal-size SASE for list. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

HELP! I need a VHS copy of THE INNOCENTS, a movie starring Deborah Kerr made from the novel, THE TURN OF THE SCREW. I will provide cassette and postage. Please help me to placate a husband who is threatening to dismantle my VCR if I don't find him a copy. Kate Birkel, 2326 S. 12th St., Omaha, NE 68108.

HF COLLECTORS--I need your help! I am looking for early, obscure TV and movie roles by Harrison, in particular THE POSSESSED, THE TRIAL OF LT. WILLIAM CALLEY, and THE INTRUDERS, plus any TV shows he guest-starred in. VHS format. Maybe I have something you're looking for. Will gladly trade. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

I AM LOOKING TO buy the following zines: FAR REALMS #1-2, GUARDIAN #1-3, SKYWALKER #1-4, and A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #1. If anyone can help, please write to me. Lisa Thomas, 7606 Lady St., Charleston, SC 29418.

I AM OFFERING fair, honest zine reviews in return for free or postage-only copies. Will accept defective copies and will provide copy of review before publication. Am also offering experienced, complete proofreading in return for contrib copy. Sandra Necchi, 4835 Cedar Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143.

I AM WISHING TO BUY STAR WARS zines. If you have any you are willing to sell, please send price you are asking, title and condition to Sheryl Herrly, 2330 North Evergreen, Phoenix, AZ 85006.

MIAMI VICE Stationery for sale. Original art by Suzy Sansom. 25 sheets in assorted colors only \$5 post paid. Also available: Indiana Jones, SW. Please SASE for flyer. Available from Suzy Sansom, 376 Granada Dr., So. San Francisco, CA 94080.

SALE--includes zines (SW and ST), posters, Japanese photo magazines, comics, Remington Steele photos,

artwork, lobby card sets, and more other miscellaneous junkie than you can shake a lightsabre at! For list, SASE Pat Nussman, 2 J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

STAR TREK SLIDES--Set of 20 for \$15. All episodes, all characters. Individually--\$1.00 each, minimum 5 slides. SASE Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

STILL PLAYING CATCH-UP? With the editors' permission, we offer photocopies of the following zines: ARCHAEOLOGY 101, EMPIRE REVIEW, KESSEL RUN, CROSSED SABERS, FACETS, MOS EISLEY CHRONICLE, DOCKING BAY, FAR REALMS, TREMOR IN THE FORCE #1 and #2. Editors inquiries welcomed. SASE for flyer. De-Van Press, 1108 Pepper Dr., Madisonville, KY 42431.

THE OFFICIAL UNOFFICIAL HARRISON FORD MINI-CON. In conjunction with WorldCon 1986, Atlanta, Georgia. This mini-con is in the planning stages, and we need your help. Tentative plans call for renting a room at the hotel for the purpose of gathering together Ford fans for chatting and discussion, and whatever else comes up. Depending on response, we will try to arrange for some tables for the sale of fanzines, etc., and a VCR for viewing tapes of appropriate movies. Suggestions are welcome. SASE for further information. C. L. Smith, 31 Lincoln Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446.

WANTED: Copies of "Falcon's Flight" #2, 4, 5 & 6. Willing to pay a reasonable amount for them. I hope someone can help me in SW zine world. Want to complete my set. Fran Husejinovic, 1722 Decatur St., Ridgewood, NY 11385.

WANTED: Out of print SW zines. Also looking for photographs and SW collectables. I have a few large SW dolls for sale or trade, also access to many more dolls. Sandi Jones, 629B Dana Court, Naperville, IL 60540.

WANTED: Some highly organized person to write episode guides composed of Air Dates, Titles, and brief Synopses of any current TV program of fan interest for those of us videophiles who have been woefully unorganized. Examples: A-Team, Airwolf, Doctor Who, Knight Rider, Remington Steele, et al. In case of duplication, only most complete listings will be printed. Partial lists accepted. PERSPECTIVE, Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

WANTED: Artists for ALL THAT JAZZ, the all A-Team zine. Please send examples of your work along with SASE to: ALL THAT JAZZ, Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

ZINE SALE: Vintage STAR TREK collection, mainly from mid-70's such as "Spock Enslaved", "Kraith Collected", etc. SASE for price list to Sharon R. Saye, 124 Davis St., Apt. A, Bridgeport, WV 26330.

ZINE SALE: Many out of print. Misc. SW stuff for sale. SASE for list. Thekla Kurth, 851 N. Pheasantbrook Cir., Centerville, UT 84014.

ZINE SALE--SW & ST, many out of print zines: SKYWALKER, FAR REALMS, KESSEL RUN. SASE for list. Lou Ann Patrie, 2718 LaFeuille Cir., Apt. 5, Cincinnati, OH 45211.

ZINE SALE--Over 50 zines! Mostly SW and Raiders some media. All zines are originals, none are photocopies. All are in excellent to mint condition with front and back covers intact. First come, first served. Prompt service. SASE for price, complete listing of zines and availability. Zines include: CIRCLE OF LIGHT, DOCKING BAY, FACETS, FAR REALMS, FLIP OF A COIN, KESSEL RUN, OUTLANDS CHRONICLES, SHADOWSTAR, VISIONS and many more. Reason for selling--too many zines, too little room. Lynda Vandiver, 603 Jones Avenue, Madisonville, KY 42431.

ZINE SALE: Classic out-of-print SW including some TWIN SUNS, SKYWALKER, KESSEL RUN and a bit of vintage ST. SASE for list. Terri Black, 169 S. St. John #199, Pasadena, CA 91129.

3-1/2 x 5 PHOTOS--Harrison Ford color photos from Letterman, Conversation, Graffiti, Dan August, Getting Straight. SASE for flyer. Also Dirk Benedict --20 color photos from the Alan Thicke Show. All photographs are clear and sharp! Excellent artist's reference. Jon-Eric Hexum from Voyagers, Cover-up (several sets). SASE for price flyer. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ronda Henderson
701 Buford St.
Springdale, AR 72764

Michelle Malkin
1410 Tyson Ave., 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19111

David & Cynthia Manship
5830 Oak Ladder Ct.
Burke, VA 22015

Annita Smith
8617 Southwestern #221
Dallas, TX 75206

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE

Cheree Cargill
457 Meadowhill Drive
Garland, TX 75043

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